Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis, PLO Said To Hold Secret Meetings in Europe

PM1106100693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jun 93 pp1, 4

[Raghidah Dirgham report: "Israeli Officials Hold Secret Meetings With PLO in Europe"]

[Excerpt] New York—AL-HAYAH learned from informed political sources yesterday that senior Israeli officials and prominent PLO officials (including PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin) have been holding secret meetings over the past two weeks in various European cities, including Vienna. Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian negotiating team, is also participating in these contacts. The purpose of the meetings is to agree on a "declaration of principles" based on the U.S. compromise draft between the Palestinian and Israeli positions which had been rejected by the Palestinians at the end of the ninth round of negotiations in Washington.

The new "declaration of principles" draft includes an idea for the rapid implementation of the transitional period in the Gaza Strip first, and it also explains the PLO's part in managing the transition process.

The meetings are shrouded in complete secrecy to ensure success of the intensive talks aimed at reaching agreement on a "declaration of principles" to coincide with the start of the 10th round of negotiations expected to be held in Washington in mid-June. In these meetings, Israel and the PLO exchanged papers stating their respective positions on the minute details of the "declaration," such as how Resolution 242 is to be applied to Palestinian territories, what these territories should be legally called, the final status of the (occupied) Palestinian territories after the transitional period, and so on. It is known that one of the reasons which prompted the Palestinians to reject the U.S. compromise draft was the fact that the territories were not described as "occupied territories." This point is being tackled in the current negotiations.

Some Egyptian and Austrian officials are playing a part in these meetings, especially Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who went to Israel the day before yesterday. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat had given him a message for Israeli Prime Minister Rabin when he visited Austria on 19 May. In it, he expressed the PLO's readiness to take over the Gaza Strip once Israel decides to withdraw from it provided the move is coupled with withdrawal from Jericho too. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Comments on Ongoing Discussions in U.S.

TA1106051493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Talks are to resume in Washington today between Palestinian representatives and officials at the U.S. State Department in advance of the peace talks said to resume next Tuesday [15 June] in the American capital. The central themes are reaching an agreement on a declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestinians and the role the Americans are to play in the negotiations. Reporter Connie Lonn spoke with Palestinian spokeswoman, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and filed this report from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Lonn] The Palestinian delegation is in the midst of two days of talks with the Americans. The American team is headed by Assistant Secretary of State Ed Djerejian. Hanan 'Ashrawi told us there are some flaws remaining in the talks.

['Ashrawi] Well, we're still discussing with the Americans, and this is preliminary. It is a sort of mapping out the course of the future talks, in addition to discussing the American role. American policy positions, the assurances and the terms of reference of the peace process, in addition to practices on the ground. Israeli matters, in particular the siege of Jerusalem, the closure of the territories, unilateral actions that preempt the final outcome. And, at the same time, we are discussing the basic principles that should form the core of the substance of the negotiations, issues that should be bridged.

[Lonn] Are the Americans putting any pressure on Israel, and do you think a joint communique can be formulated this time?

['Ashrawi] Well, I don't know whether the Americans are putting pressure on Israel. There certainly hasn't been much pressure in the course of the negotiations all along. And, I think that a bit of firm persuasion would be necessary because it is the duty of the co-sponsor to safeguard the integrity of the peace process, the terms of reference, to ensure compliance and that people at least have common grounds or common premises when they present their positions, and to respect the requirements of the peace process in their behavior.

As far as the future, it is difficult to predict it. It is a question of will, determination, and commitment. If the Israeli side is willing to deal seriously with the requirements, to present positions that are in compliance with the terms of reference without attempting to manipulate either the human conditions or creating facts on the ground, then there can be progress.

[Lonn] Hanan 'Ashrawi said she does not know whether there will be any direct involvement by President Clinton or Secretary Christopher in this, the 10th round of talks. [end recording]

'Arafat Criticizes U.S. Support for Israel

NC1006183893 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Tunis, June 10 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Thursday [10 June] launched a strong attack on the United States for its "support" for Israel at the Middle East peace talks.

He said Washington's position served as an "encouragement" to Israel, which was "violating the reference points of the process and its aims.

The last round of the peace talks in Washington had been a "bitter experience" because it showed how the United States had strayed from the "balanced and non-partisan role" demanded by its position as co-sponsor of the talks.

'Arafat, in a statement marking the 67th month of the intifadah—the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories—also criticised "American silence over the growing violations of human rights in the occupied territories," and their sealing off by Israel.

A tenth round of peace talks begins Tuesday in Washington.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin on Thursday urged the United States to intervene to secure a breakthrough in the peace talks.

He hoped that Israel and the Palestinians would agree on a "declaration of principles" and that an agenda for negotiations would be sealed with Syria.

'Arafat Invited To Pay Visit to China

LD1006223393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received an important message from the Chinese leadership when he received his excellency the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Tunisia, Mr. An Huihou.

The message included an official invitation from Chinese President Yang Shangkun to brother President Abu-'Ammar to pay a visit to China on a date he fixes, expressing the hope it will materialize in the near future.

Brother Abu-'Ammar asked the ambassador to convey his thanks and that of the Palestinian people to the Chinese Government and people for their firm support of the Palestinian people's struggle until the achievement of all their objectives in the return, self-determination, and establishment of the Palestinian state with its capital at holy Jerusalem.

Kuwaiti Boycott Decision Termed 'Not Surprising'

PM1006134093 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Jun 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Unsurprising Kuwaiti Slip"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government yesterday officially announced its abandonment of the Arab boycott weapon. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that it will not comply with the blacklist, which includes foreign companies dealing with Israel, but it will not abandon the direct boycott of the Hebrew state.

It was natural for this step to be welcomed by the Israeli Government, on the grounds that it is a violation of an Arab consensus that has lasted for 40 years. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres described this Kuwaiti step as "positive," urging the other Arab states to follow the same road.

At any rate, this Kuwaiti move was not surprising. This is because Kuwait decided to end the Arab boycott as gratitude on its part for the United States' participation in routing Iraq and expelling its forces from Kuwait in the recent Gulf war. In fact the Kuwaiti commitment has not been limited to that. We have seen how the country has turned into a spearhead for the Western schemes hostile to Arabism and Islam in the region.

The most dangerous thing in the Kuwaiti step is that it is a prelude to other steps designed to get closer to the Hebrew state. This is because all the indications issued by its government indicate that normalization is approaching and that Israel's second embassy in the Arab world will be in Kuwait. It is a matter of time and gradual implementation.

Everyone now knows that Kuwait has become a state with incomplete sovereignty as a result of the permanent U.S. bases there. Its government cannot reject any U.S. request for complete normalization with Israel. The U.S. ambassador in Kuwait has become the real ruler of the country. It is he who draw up its policy. His status now is like that of Britain's consuls in its colonies and protectorates in the 1940's and 1950's.

And some Kuwaiti newspapers are playing a suspicious role in perpetuating this subservience to Washington through articles by certain writers which are full of spite against the Arabs and Arabism. They glorify all that Arab dignity rejects, beginning with Israel and ending with the Masonic movement.

Kuwait was not content with these negative steps. In fact it also ruled out any rapprochement with the PLO and Jordan in the future, proceeding from purely racist considerations, imagining that it is a superpower that can make decisions at such a level, and believing that it is isolating these states, when in fact it is increasing its and its people's isolation.

Regrettably, the Kuwaiti parliament, which some people expected to oppose the government's Westernization policies, has turned into a tool in the government's hands, endorsing these policies and granting legitimacy to all its practices and orientations hostile to Arabism and Islam. With the exception of some Islamic and pan-Arab deputies, most members of the parliament—and we do not say the government's deputies only—do not differ at all in their views from the government ministers.

It is regrettable for Kuwait—which strongly opposed any normalization with what it termed the Iraqi occupier, expelled any Arab who "collaborated" with him, and sentenced to death journalists and others as a result of that—to be the first among the Arabs to normalize with the real occupier of territory and Arab holy places in Palestine. This precedent will not serve Kuwait and its

people if present Arab conditions change and the country experiences compelling circumstances similar to those which it experienced on 2 August 1990. Certainly the Kuwaiti Government and its present formal parliament will bear all the consequences of these policies, which are unacceptable morally, humanly, and religiously.

OPEC Affairs

Kuwait 'Not Party' to OPEC Agreement

LD1006201493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1939 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Geneva, 10 Jun (KUNA)—After the OPEC meeting here today Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said that Kuwait "is not party" to the agreement reached by the organization. Sources from the Kuwaiti delegation attending the OPEC meetings have indicated that Kuwait today rejected an offer made by the organization providing for a 10 percent increase in its production quota, which stands at 1.6 million barrels per day. This would represent an increase of 160,000 barrels per day.

The same sources added that the other OPEC members have accepted to continue to adhere to the overall production ceiling fixed in the February agreement which stands at 23,582 million barrels per day, with the addition of 160,000 barrels per day, which is the increase offered to Kuwait.

Kuwait is seeking a greater increase in its quota in accordance with the promise OPEC made to it last February. Al-Baghli also said that Kuwait's position will be clarified at a news conference to be held later this evening.

Algeria

Differing Views on Presidential Establishment Noted

LD1006210693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The first phase of the dialogue between the Higher State Council [HSC] and the various political parties, and the social, vocational, cultural and sporting societies has led to a conclusion which the HSC summed up in the form of a memorandum. The memorandum deals with the main axes—such as the transitional phase, the consultative council, the presidential establishment and others. There were differing views on these axes. What are the recorded points of view in this dialogue about the presidential establishment, and will the name—the HSC—stay or will it change? Here is our correspondent Ismael:

[Ismael] Good evening ladies and gentlemen; the presidential period of the HSC which today rules the country will come to an end at the end of this year. The participants in the first phase of the dialogye demanded the creation of a new presidential establishment to rule the country during the transitional period. This establishment may maintain its current name—that is the HSC—or assume another name, such as the Republican Council or the Presidential Council. The parties demanded that this establishment should stem from the National Consultative Council—totally or partially. They also reaffirmed the need to have the National People's Army in this establishment, and suggested that the head of the Consultative Council and the head of the government should be members of this new presidential establishment.

Regarding the powers of this establishment, the latter will have the powers that are normally vested in the president of the Republic, on condition that sometimes these powers are vested in the other members of the council and not the chairman alone. The Patriotic Rally and the Rally for Culture and Democracy proposed that the executive powers should be combined in the hands of one person so that the head of the presidential establishment can run the government. For their part the 31 societies suggested that confidence in the HSC should be renewed and to keep the Council in its present form, while 44 societies are of the opinion that it is necessary to expand the HSC to embrace new members; it is necessary to have representatives of the National People's Army and the Consultative Council. They differed on the number of members; some suggested that the number should be reduced to 3 members, and others suggested that the number should be expanded to 11 members. These are the various views submitted by the parties and societies which participated in the first phase of the dialogue about the new presidential establishment.

Egypt

Interior Minister Comments on 'Foreign Schemes'

NC1006174293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1604 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that the security services are vigilant and aware of the scale of foreign schemes that try to harm Egypt.

During his meeting with His Holiness Pope Shanudah III, the pope of Alexandria and the Missionary Province of Saint Marks, and several bishops today, the interior minister said the security services are working to achieve stability and peace to create the right atmosphere to attract investment and implement the economic reform plan.

He said the Muslims and Copts are Egyptians seeking to achieve security for their country.

Pope Shanudah congratulated al-Alfi on 'Id al-Adha and on his becoming interior minister. He said the Muslims and the Copts are of the same fabric. He said the Copts support every effort being made to help Egypt develop and progress.

'Foreign Quarters' Training Extremists

NC1106101393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1957 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] London, 10 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has accused some foreign quarters of financing and training terrorists in Egypt. He added that these quarters take advantage of the economic difficulties of these individuals to urge them to carry out these operations.

In an interview with the BBC broadcast this evening, the interior minister pointed out that the police are making constant efforts to identify those responsible for the attack in an al-Jizah highway tunnel the day before yesterday. Al-Alfi stressed that the police do not favor using force unless force is used against them. He noted that the number of police casualties during the past year exceeded the number from extremist groups, adding that the current events demand a new security strategy.

Interior Minister Reshuffles Police Command

NC1006171093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1439 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has made several security changes. He issued a decree today transferring al-Jizah Security Director Major General Majdi al- Basyuni to the post of director of the al-Bahr al-Ahmar [Red Sea] Security Department and appointing Major General Fahim Husayn, director of the Electricity Police, director of al-Jizah Security Department.

The interior minister also issued a decree transferring Major General Ibrahim Musa, director of the Criminal

Forensic Department, to the post of director of the Electricity Police and appointing the assistant interior minister for planning, Major General Ahmad Abu-al-Qasim, to the post of director of the Criminal Forensic Department.

Major General Muhammad Ibrahim, director of the al-Jizah Investigation Department, was transferred to the Public Security Department, and Brigadier General Muhammad Fudah, chief of the al-Jizah Investigation Department, was promoted to the post of department director. Brigadier General Ibrahim Bakr became department chief.

As part of the interior minister's reshuffle of police commanders following the bomb explosion at the Nasr-al-Din tunnel on the Pyramids road the day before yesterday, Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif Khadr, director of the Traffic and Communications Police, was appointed assistant interior minister for southern Upper Egypt affairs. Major General Nassar Zahir, director of the al-Bahr al- Ahmar Security Department, was appointed director of the Traffic and Communications Police.

The reshuffle also involved the transfer of Colonel Muhammad Talbah from the General Administration of Officers Affairs to the Department of Organization and Administration and Colonel Majdi Ghanim from Inspection Administration to the General Administration of Officers Affairs.

The interior minister issued the decree reshuffling the police commanders in light of a comprehensive and urgent investigation by the Inspection and Control Department with the commanders and officers of the al-Jizah Security Department. The investigation concerned some negative features of their performance, which brought about the changes.

Militant Group Denies Attack on Tour Bus

NC1006163993 Paris AFP in English 1547 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 10 (AFP)—A leading member of the militant Muslim group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah on Thursday denied it carried out a bomb attack on a tour bus which killed one person and wounded 15.

Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani told reporters in court where he is on trial that "the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah is not responsible" for the bombing on Tuesday which killed an Egyptian and wounded 15 other people, including six British tourists.

Police searching for those behind the attack on Tuesday have rounded up 65 people, including 40 in dawn raids Thursday.

Six of those arrested have been on the run for several months, police said.

'Abd-al-Ghani said the bombing could have been by "elements inside or outside the country trying to widen divisions between the government and the al-Jama'ah so that the vicious circle of violence and counter-violence continues in Egypt."

He has been on trial for two years for the alleged murder of parliamentary speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub, and is regarded by police as the al-Jama'ah's military chief inside Egypt.

He is also on trial for allegedly plotting the murder of writer Faraj Fudah from his jail cell.

The fundamentalist Jama'ah, which has claimed several attacks against tourists and the security forces, did not target "innocent civilians" 'Abd-al-Ghani said.

The group has not claimed any of the last three bombings in Cairo, which have killed 12 people.

More than 150 people have died since the al-Jama'ah launched its violent campaign aimed at toppling the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in March last year.

Meanwhile, Interior minister Hasan al-Alfi also fired four senior policemen responsible for security in the al-Jizah area where the attack took place, officials said.

Arab League Chief Leaves for Morocco Meeting

NC1006152193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo for Rabat at noon today on an official three-day visit to Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan II.

He said upon departure that he is happy to visit Morocco and meet with King Hassan II as part of an initiative toward pan-Arab reconciliation. He stressed that the Arab League is eager to achieve such reconciliation.

'Abd-al-Majid noted the favorable responses and understanding shown for the motives of the initiative. He explained that he had received nine responses to his efforts to clear the air among Arabs.

He said all those replies were "positive" and encouraging. He noted that Morocco is the current chairman of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Detained, Accused of Spying for Sudan, Iran

NC1006153693 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 10 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities have detained 31 Sudanese, including three accused of spying for Sudan and Iran, a Sudanese diplomat here said Thurday.

Thirty university students in al-Minya, 250 kilometers (150 miles) south of Cairo, were all arrested at the end of May, the diplomat said. There were no details of the last suspect.

The three accused of spying were all students and were being held in a detention center in al-Minya, the diplomat said.

An Egyptian security official confirmed Sudanese students had been arrested in al-Minya in an espionage case, but did not say how many.

Egypt has accused the Sudanese government of supporting Muslim militants bent on overthrowing the secular government of President Husni Mubarak and responsible for attacks on tourists, police and government officials.

Palestinian Delegation Arrives for Talks on Gulf Tour

NC1006174893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1706 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, arrived here this afternoon on a two-day visit to Egypt. The delegation, which includes Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, will hold talks with senior officials in Egypt on the results of its tour of Gulf countries. The delegation members will also discuss efforts for the success of the next round of talks due to be held in Washington on 15 June, ways to restore Arab solidarity, and Egyptian-Palestinian coordination on various issues.

President Husni Mubarak played an instrumental role in arranging the Palestinian delegation's visit to the Gulf, thanks to his efforts to clear the problems in Palestinian-Gulf relations.

Daily Calls for Restoration of U.S.-PLO Ties

NC1106083893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR newspaper urges the United States to adopt an impartial stand toward the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper says: We are not seeking the impossible when we ask the U.S. Administration to give the same special standing Israel enjoys with the United States to the other Arab delegations participating in the negotiations, in particular the Palestinian delegation. But we call for creating some kind of dialogue and normal contacts with the PLO, which plays a primary role in the talks.

AL-AKHBAR affirms that the United States' credibility will be boosted if it gives the Palestinians a new opportunity to set up ties with the U.S. Administration. The paper says that this cannot be achieved without removing the wedge former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger planted in the roots of U.S. policy to bar any official contacts between Washington and the PLO. The paper notes that the PLO has met Kissinger's conditions in this respect in word and deed, a measure that requires the restoration of normal ties with the United States.

U.S. Approach to Meeting With Palestinians Criticized

NC1006153193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM calls on the United States to give the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks the same chance it gives to Israel over the discussion and amendment of the proposed joint Palestinian-Israeli working paper.

In a commentary today, the paper criticizes the American position that the United States is ready to discuss the proposed formula in preparatory meetings with the Palestinians, but without being ready to change it.

The paper asks why there should be a preparatory meeting with the Palestinians. Is it simply to demonstrate American generosity? Why does Washington insist on treating the Palestinians in this way, as if they were of a lower rank and must offer thanks and pledge allegiance to the United States without having the right to ask for amendments in the proposed formula?

The paper asks the United States not to repeat the mistake it made when it took Israel's opinion of the paper, but not the Palestinian opinion.

It also urged that the paper's presentation not be delayed until the first session of the 10th round of talks and that the United States present the paper to the negotiators without haste and make room for every possible change [sentence as received].

Media Treatment of Shaykh-CIA 'Ties' Viewed

NC1106101193 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 5 Jun 93 pp 1, 6-8

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah from the "Political Situation" column: "U.S. Gimmick: They Accuse Him Then Defend Him"]

[Excerpts] Were it not for U.S. media, U.S. security agencies, the U.S. State Department, and the White House spokesman, nobody in Egypt or in any Arab state would have heard of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman. If the U.S. press had not written all they have on this shaykh, the Egyptian papers would not have been compelled to criticize the U.S. Administration and press for insisting on creating something out of nothing.

Before the U.S. Government and media took an interest in Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, to most Egyptians he was just a name. Even the minority who had heard about him knew of him only in connection with the assassination of late President Anwar al-Sadat and his getting off only because of lack of evidence on his participation in planning and carrying out this grave crime. AKHBAR AL-YAWM readers have a right to learn about Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is known only to the U.S.

Administration and its security and media agencies. Before writing this article, I tried to find out about this shaykh so that I could pass the details on to readers, but I couldn't. The man as he is known in Egypt advocates violence and terrorism. Proof of this is his being repeatedly arrested for several cases of extremism, the latest being the assassination of President al-Sadat. Other than this, we know little about this shaykh who has suddenly become a "rising star" in the United States, where numerous pages are devoted to his life, history, hopes, and pains.

I read in the U.S. magazine THE NEW YORKER a lengthy article by journalist Mary Ann Weaver in which she reviewed the life of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman from his birth in 1938 to his move to the United States, where he lives. [passage omitted]

The magazine is American, not Egyptian, and the writer is an American, not Egyptian. The accusation against Shaykh 'Abd-al- Rahman that his ties with the CIA started in Peshawar through Golboddin Hekmatyar is a clear accusation by the American journalist and is published in THE NEW YORKER. If 'Abd-al-Rahman rejects this accusation and if the U.S. Administration is angry with Egypt because an Egyptian newspaper wrote about Shaykh 'Umar's relations with the CIA, the U.S. Administration should go back to its media. It was the United States' media, not Egyptian, that repeatedly noted Shaykh 'Umar's connection with the CIA. All the Egyptian newspaper did was to report the information citing U.S. media. If so, why the anger? And what were the strange remarks by the U.S. secretary of state on this accusation a few days ago?!

If what U.S. journalist Mary Ann Weaver has written in THE NEW YORKER does not constitute conclusive evidence about 'Abd-al-Rahman's relations with the U.S. intelligence service, the newspaper THE VILLAGE VOICE, in its 30 March 1993 issue, published a serious and lengthy article entitled: "The CIA and the Shaykh." In the beginning of his article, journalist Robert Friedman said: "The agency coddled 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, allowing him to operate in the U.S. Now this unholy alliance has blown up in our faces, after Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's relation with the culprits in the bombing of the New York's Trade Center was uncovered."

The World Trade Center incident was the reason for U.S. journalist Robert Friedman's interest in searching and looking into 'Abd-al-Rahman's history to determine his relation with the defendants accused in this bombing. Friedman conducted a wide investigation about those around 'Abd-al-Rahman. He also listened to the confessions of an Egyptian recruited by the CIA to spy on 'Abd-al-Rahman and those around him. The confessions of this agent, called Mamduh Zakhari, are extremely strange. In his confessions about 'Abd-al-Rahman's aides, the agent wrote: "They always talked about dealing blows to major U.S. symbols, like the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty. Some went to the mosque just to pray and then leave, but others were conspiring and whispering. In their opinion, the United States was a huge imperialist power, the arch-Satan, and the source of all world evil."

Let us leave it to U.S. journalist Robert Friedman to tell us more about these confessions, which were published in THE VILLAGE VOICE weekly on 30 March. [passage omitted]

That was part, not all, of what THE VILLAGE VOICE published about 'Abd-al-Rahman, his relation with terrorism, and his very close ties with the CIA. Many Egyptians read the report, but what is certain is that the U.S. authorities have read them before us and must have been disturbed by the report, which cited several U.S. policemen who admitted to the writer, Robert Friedman, their inability to do something about 'Abd-al-Rahman's terrorism because of the "protection" he enjoys by the CIA. I also cannot believe that such talk, which a U.S. journalist hastened to publish in a widely circulated U.S. newspaper, could be said and published and the White House or the U.S. State Department did not hear about it! It seems that what I thought would be unlikely to happen did happen. When THE VILLAGE VOICE accused 'Abd-al-Rahman in March of being a CIA agent, and when THE NEW YORKER confirmed these accusations in April, we were surprised by the complete silence on the part of the U.S. Administration and all of its agencies and institutions. The same "silence" turned into an "uproar" as soon as AL-JUMHURIYAH last week talked about 'Abd-al-Rahman's connection to the CIA. The official U.S. spokesmen hastened to deny the Egyptian paper's report, and the U.S. Administration expressed its extreme anger with the Egyptian Government for permitting the publication of such an accusation in a Cairo newspaper!

I do not understand the reason for this anger or the speedy denial of this accusation! The Egyptian paper did not invent what it wrote. All it did was repeat what the U.S. media organs have previously announced, repeated, and confirmed! What did the Egyptian paper say that was more than THE NEW YORKER, THE VILLAGE VOICE, and other U.S. papers and magazines said? And what did the Egyptian newspaper attribute to the CIA other than what U.S. officials working in this agency have already confirmed? Why, then, did nerves become frayed in Washington and were several official statements were made in anger, protest, and rejection of what the Egyptian paper published?! These are many questions to which we do not know the answer.

Libya

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

LD1106074793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jun (JANA)—Brother 'Ali Muhammad Bisharati, Iran's first deputy foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation arrived last night on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Egypt's Safwat al-Sharif Begins Visit 10 Jun

LD1006211393 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Brother Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was greeted on arrival by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Egyptian Envoys

LD1006222293 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Safwat al-Sharif, information minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and brother 'Umar Sulayman, as envoys of President Husni Mubarak.

Celebrations Mark 23d Anniversary of U.S. Evacuation

LD1106085793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 11 Jun (JANA)—Great popular celebrations were launched last night in different parts of the Great Jamahiriyah to mark the 23d anniversary of the evacuation of U.S. forces and colonialist bases from Arab Libyan soil and the liberation of this part of the big Arab nation by the great 1 September revolution. [passage omitted]

The Basic People's Congress for the Tripoli region sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution stating its pride in the achievements brought about in all fields by the great 1 September revolution.

The masses also expressed their pride in the revolution's historic achievement in throwing out the foreign troops and bases from Arab Libyan soil. They announced their constant readiness to preach the humane and eternal proposals contained in the third universal theory [al-Qadhdhafi's Green Book], and to defend the great advances for civilization the great 1 September revolution achieved for the Arab Libyan people.

The masses of the Basic People's Congress presented their allegiance and loyalty to the brother leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Decree Bars Civil Servants From Other Work

LD0906215993 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The General People's Committee issued Decree No. 365 on a number of regulations concerning the civil service. The following is the text of the decree:

Article 1: Combining work in the civil service and any other private activity of any kind, under any name, and with or without permission, outside official working hours is forbidden.

Article 2: No civil servant will combine work in the civil service and participation in setting up commercial associations under his own name or in the name of his legal dependents.

Article 3: Any authorization, be it personal or in the name of legal dependents, given to carry out private activity or in a partnership will be made null and void.

Article 4: Every person affected by this decree will adjust his situation before 31 July 1993.

Article 5: The relevant authorities will implement this decree.

Mauritania

New Planning Minister, Bank Governor Appointed

LD0806211893 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has announced that in accordance with a decree issued today, Mr. Taki Ould Sidi has been appointed minister of planning. The Presidency has also announced that in accordance with a decree issued today, Mr. Mohamed Ould Michel has been appointed governor of the Mauritanian Central Bank.

Morocco

Arab League Secretary General Arrives 10 Jun

LD1006224193 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] [Announcer] Secretary General of the Arab League Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, arrived in our country today for a visit lasting several days. He was accompanied by Mr. Ahmad Adil, the assistant secretary-general of the Arab League. In a statement on his arrival, Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Majid] I am very happy to arrive in Morocco and to have an opportunity to meet His Majesty the king and hold talks with brother Abdellatif Filali, my dearest friend. We will discuss the current general Arab situation and developments on the Arab and international scene. [Passage omitted: he refers to King Hassan's valued knowledge and contributions on Arab issues]

The fact that Morocco is the chairman of the current session of the Arab League is a suitable opportunity to promote these issues for the benefit of the Arab nation. Thank you. [end recording]

[Announcer] The first contacts of the secretary-general of the Arab League began this evening in Rabat. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr. Abdellatif Filali received Mr. Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. During this meeting they reviewed the current Arab situation and the contacts being made to restore Arab solidarity.

Filali, Kenya's Musyoka Discuss Cooperation

LD0906162793 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, Jun 9 (MAP)—Ways to energize Moroccan-Kenyan cooperation topped talks held here Tuesday between Moroccan Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali and visiting Kenyan peer Kalonzo Musyoka.

The two sides who voiced determination to enlarge the scope of bilateral cooperation, decided to conclude in a first stage a cultural accord to bolster cultural exchanges.

The Kenyan minister previously conferred with Moroccan Foreign Trade, Investments and Tourism Minister Hassan Abou Ayoub on bilateral cooperation in realms of tourism and trade exchanges. The possible participation of Moroccan businessmen in the upcoming international tourism fair projected to be held in Nairobi was discussed.

Kenyan Minister Departs 10 Jun

LD1006162293 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Kenya's Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka today left Morocco following a working visit to our country during which he held talks with a number of Moroccan officials.

In a statement at Mohamed V Airport, he stressed the importance of the visit which was marked by the results of the talks and meetings he held with a number of His Majesty' government members. He said his country had a true desire to strengthen and develop cooperation with Morocco in various sectors, particularly in the tourist sector.

King Receives Message From Iran, Discusses Ties

LD1006095993 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's messege was submitted to Morocco's King Hassan by Iran's first deputy foreign minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, in Rabat Wednesday.

Expressing his heartfelt greetings to the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President Rafsanjani, the Moroccan King lauded Iran's historic role in expansion of Islamic culture and civilization.

He welcomed boosting of ties with Iran and said that many common points which existed between the two nations could help further consolidate bilateral ties and coordination among Muslim states.

Besharati said that further cementing of ties between Iran and Morocco would serve as an step towards cooperation, coordination and unity among Islamic countries.

Elaborating on Iran's regional and international policies and the priority Iran attached to consolidation of solidarity among Muslim countries, he termed as important Tehran-Rabat cooperation.

Over 1,000 Candidates Registered for Election

LD1006224393 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The number of candidates who are officially running as candidates in the forthcoming legislative elections had, 1900 this evening, reached 1,586. Some belong to the various political parties and others are independent candidates.

Kuwait Welcomes Basindwah Remarks; Yemen To Study GCC Ties

PM1006145693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jun 93 pp 1,4

[Reports by Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden: "Sabah al-Ahmad 'Happy' with New Yemeni Foreign Minister's Statements"]

[Text] Kuwait has welcomed the recent statements by Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah on Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations in which he hinted that Sanaa was willing to turn over a new leaf with Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said yesterday that he was "happy to hear these statements by the new Yemeni foreign minister, who is a friend before being a minister." He added: "I wish him success in his work." Shaykh Sabah praised Basindwah, describing him as "his country's best representative."

The Yemeni foreign minister, in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH at the beginning of this month, said he was "putting the question of resumption of relations between Yemen and Kuwait and the GCC states at the top of his agenda as Yemeni foreign minister."

Basindwah also said: "We are not with Iraq... Yemen is not with Iraq and has never been against Kuwait or the GCC." He added that "the time has come for Yemen and Kuwait to get together and candidly discuss what happened."

Sabah al-Ahmad has stated that Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya will visit Kuwait this month, but he did not specify the purpose of the visit, the first since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In Sanaa, it has been learned from responsible sources at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry that "the new foreign minister asked a team of experts and politicians to make a thorough analytical study of Yemeni-Gulf relations—the first such move since the Gulf crisis." They added that "the results of the study will be submitted to the Presidential Council before the minister's tour of a number of GCC states around the end of this current month. The tour is expected to begin with Bahrain at the invitation of Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak."

The Foreign Ministry sources said that "Minister Basindwah is opposed to the appointment of any new ambassadors abroad without qualifications or previous political experience. He talked about that at more than one meeting with officials of the parties of the government coalition."

Kuwait

Parliamentary Circles Oppose Lifting of Boycott

PM1006145993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 2

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Deputies Expect Parliamentary Opposition; Kuwaiti Contacts Over Lifting Economic Boycott of Israel"]

[Text] Kuwait—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry yesterday conducted high-level contacts during which it raised—not openly—the issue of the Arab economic boycott of Israel and what had been said about the existence of discussions between Kuwait and the United States on this issue. A high-ranking Kuwaiti diplomatic source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the issue of suspending the boycott of Israel is the object of big disagreement; there are differing views, and the debate is still continuing." However, the source pointed out that the Kuwaiti view proceeds from the premise that the issue of lifting the "direct" boycott of economic dealings with Israel can only be decided by an Arab consensus at the summit level. Meanwhile, the talk about suspending the Kuwaiti boycott of companies dealing with Israel has encountered strong opposition from parliamentary circles in Kuwait. Deputy Dr. Nasir al-Sani', secretary of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the talk about lifting the boycott of Israel is "meaningless." He stressed that raising this issue contravenes the simplest Arab and Islamic principles and values. Al-Sani' pointed out that if this issue is referred to the National Assembly, it will face parliamentary opposition that is aware of the effects of these orientations on the Israeli entity's existence in the region. He pointed out that the move to lift the economic boycott of Israel is prompted by the big interests of businessmen in major world companies, and that this move should be confronted and Arab and Islamic principles and values protected.

Saddam Thanks Citizens for 'Id al-Adha Greetings

JN1006185693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Statement by Presidential Office chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has thanked all tribal and sect heads and prominent figures in lofty Iraq who sent to his excellency letters and cables of congratulations on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha. His excellency appreciates the pan-Arab and national spirit that has found expression through these letters and cables. He blesses the flowing sentiments of this elite group of citizens toward his excellency and its love and loyalty for great Iraq. This is what his excellency has always known all Iraqis to be. He beseeches God Almighty to grant everyone continued health and happiness. He prays that the next time this occasion is observed, the edifice will be even higher, the victory will be entrenched, and the enemies will be finally and decisively defeated. Many happy returns.

[Signed] Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office

Letter to UN Protests Sanctions Committee Decisions

JN1006164893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jun 93

["Text" of letter from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, United Nations secretary general, New York:

I am honored to refer to our message dated 21 May 1993 in which I explained some of the practices and decisions of the Sanctions Committee, which was set up in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 661. In that letter I referred to the unjust and unjustifiable stands imposed on the committee by the representatives of the United States, Britain, France, and Japan. Such stands reflect a continued and premeditated hostile intent, in the name of international legitimacy, against the people of Iraq in order to prevent them from acquiring their essential humanitarian needs.

The decisions adopted by the Sanctions Committee during its meeting [words indistinct] on 5 May 1993 are a glaring example of the injustice being practiced against the Iraqi people in the service of the hostile political objectives governing the work of the representatives of the states mentioned above. It is certain that these states consider nothing but their political motives and premeditated intentions, without taking into account the Iraqi people's needs and suffering, despite Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

In a quick review of the requests the committee rejected during this meeting, we find the following:

1. The United States objected to eight requests.
2. Britain objected to nine requests.
3. France objected to seven requests.
4. Japan objected to three requests.

In addition, many other requests were suspended or put off under various pretexts. This has aroused the amazement and resentment of many other members of the committee.

Your Excellency, the decisions issued by the committee during its latest meeting are a case in point. Following are some of these decisions:

1. The committee rejected a request to supply Iraqi merchants with quantities of glue. This was in view of the objection of the U.S. and British representatives under the pretext that this material is used in Iraqi industry.

2. The committee rejected a request to supply the State Enterprise for Tobacco and Cigarettes with quantities of tobacco [words indistinct] because the U.S. representative said such materials are used in Iraqi industry.

3. The committee rejected a request to supply the General Company for Fertilizers with quantities of caustic soda and sodium phosphate for water processing. This was because the U.S. and British representatives said the final user is unknown.

4. The committee rejected a request to supply the al-Basrah [words indistinct] with equipment [words indistinct] because the U.S. representative objected that such equipment can be used for other purposes. In this regard, the Sanctions Committee is ignoring the reports of the humanitarian missions and international organizations that visited the country and affirmed in their reports [words indistinct] of such equipment.

5. The committee rejected a request to supply Iraqi merchants with cement additives because the British representative said this materials support the infrastructure of the Iraqi industry. This is as if the UN Security Council resolutions say that an Iraqi citizen has no right to build a residence, which is among the most basic human rights.

6. The committee rejected a request to supply Iraqi merchants with tires and motor oil filters because the French representative objected that such materials are used in private vehicles. Hearing this, we wonder why an Iraqi citizen should be prevented from using his private vehicle just like anyone else in the world.

Your Excellency, the political motives and premeditated intentions against the Iraqi people by some members of the committee fail to consider the reports of the humanitarian missions that visited the country. These clearly indicated the grave shortage of basic human and civilian needs facing the Iraqi people, especially food and health needs that especially affect children, the elderly, and

women, especially pregnant ones. The continuation of this state of affairs has also resulted in an increase in the mortality rate among children, the elderly, and sick people.

Your Excellency, once again we appeal to you, more than ever before, to exert efforts and seriously intervene to halt the Sanctions Committee's practices which contravene all humanitarian values and considerations. This is in order to safeguard the credibility of the international organization whose reputation is being besmirched as a result of such practices. I hope that this message will be distributed as an official UN Security Council document.

Please accept our deepest appreciation.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Dropping of Flares by U.S. Aircraft Protested

JN0906074293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The United Nations, 8 Jun (INA)—Iraq has strongly protested to the United Nations against hostile U.S. aircraft which continue to drop flares on Iraqi civilian areas.

In a letter to Butrus-Ghali, Secretary General of the United Nations, Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, said that U.S. aircraft dropped flares on Tall Kayf village in Ninawa Governorate on 5 June.

In his letter, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun said that these aircraft dropped a total of 10 flares in two batches. He stressed that the continued dropping of flares by U.S. aircraft is further proof that the United States is determined to harm Iraq and its people and encroach on its security and sovereignty.

Use of Saudi, Kuwaiti Air Facilities to Allies Protested

JN0906123893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Iraq has again protested to the Arab League the continued provision of facilities to U.S.-British-French aircraft by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers in the course of their continued violations of the Iraqi airspace, which pose serious threats to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

This came in a letter the Iraqi representative to the Arab League addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday. In his letter, the Iraqi delegate indicated that these aircraft continued on 4, 5, and 6 June to violate the Iraqi airspace. They carried out 143 hostile air sorties, using air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Iraqi delegate enclosed with his letter a list detailing these violations, and requested that the letter be circulated among the Arab League members so that they may be aware of these regrettable incidents.

Barzan al-Tikriti Said Organizing Course in Terrorism

NC1006173693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] A few days ago, units of the tyrant's special security organs and intelligence service concluded training to prepare them to mount terrorist operations outside Iraq. Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq sources say individuals of different nationalities received training for six months in methods of assassination, bombing, and intelligence gathering at centers run by the special security body in Baghdad.

The sources say that among those lecturing at the course was Barzan al-Tikriti, the tyrant's brother, who recently returned to the country to organize the course, which was named after him.

According to the same sources, the countries neighboring Iraq, Jordan in particular, will be targets for the activities of these terrorist groups, which will use false names and forged passports in their operations.

During this year's pilgrimage, Jordan refused to let several Iraqi pilgrims enter the country, because it suspected them of being members of the tyrant's intelligence service.

Austria's Vranitzky Continues Meetings With Officials

Offers To Help Locate Arad, MIA's

TA1006150493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said he will try to assist in the release of Ron Arad and in locating the Israeli MIA's from the Lebanon War. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that Vranitzky made these remarks during a luncheon hosted by Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili.

This afternoon Chancellor Vranitzky met with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. They expressed satisfaction over the removal of the obstacles in Israeli-Austrian relations, which were created in the wake of Kurt Waldheim's appointment as Austrian president.

Sees New Phase in Relations

AU1106083693 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 0500 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Interview with Chancellor Franz Vranitzky by Armin Wolf in Israel; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Wolf] Mr. Chancellor, your first visit to Israel is practically over. What is different after this visit?

[Vranitzky] At an official level, there was not only a readiness for normal cooperation, but there was also a clearly noticeable willingness to base relations with Austria on a foundation of friendship and partnership and to strengthen these relations. Second, I noted in numerous talks with many representatives of the State of Israel that the time when officials in Israel disapproved of somebody's contacts with Arab states and officials in Arab states disapproved of somebody's contacts with Israel belongs to the past. Third, I am quite sure that I have laid the foundation for a new kind of economic cooperation. It does not merely affect foreign trade between Austria and Israel. There are also very interesting cooperation possibilities in third markets.

[Wolf] Were you touched emotionally by this visit?

[Vranitzky] I was certainly touched emotionally because I saw that, if one stretches out a hand of friendship to former Austrians and does not constantly give them the feeling that nobody really thinks of them and does not care about them any more, they react in a convincing and enthusiastic way. They told me that they can now live much more happily and cheerfully as former Austrians here in Israel and that they have developed a new kind of internal tie with their former home country that treated them so badly.

[Wolf] Were you surprised about the special friendliness extended to you by the officials with whom you held talks here, or did you expect it?

[Vranitzky] Well, I expected it, because all preparations for this trip suggested it. Yet there are also risks in politics, and sometimes one's expectations are not met. All the better that my expectations have been fulfilled.

[Wolf] One of your predecessors, Bruno Kreisky, had a very difficult relationship with Israel and the other way round, and made numerous critical and nasty remarks about Israel. Against the background of your current visit, do you believe that some of the statements by Austrian officials in the past few years and decades about Israel were wrong?

[Vranitzky] No matter whether they were right or wrong, they were not very well received here. Yet I would not like to talk about the past, but rather stress that it was important and right to take this step now and to end a certain phase and open a new one that can only be good for all of us—the Austrians and the Israelis.

[Wolf] Prior to the visit, you stated that Austria will not offer to mediate in the Middle East conflict if it is not asked. Have you been asked in the past three days?

[Vranitzky] I have not been asked, but I would like to add that times have also changed in this respect, and that the once-praised roles of mediators are hardly carried out any more in any conflict in the world.

[Wolf] Do you understand Israel's arguments in the negotiations better after your visit?

[Vranitzky] After this visit, it is clear to me that they are serious about their intentions and willingness.

Discusses Bilateral Ties

TA1106124193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jun 93 p B2

[Interview with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky by Yosi Melman; place and date not given]

[Text] [Vranitzky] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and all the Knesset members I met want to open a new chapter in relations between the two countries. The Waldheim affair is behind us. The last six years have not been easy. Israel's decision to lower the level of its representation in Vienna triggered a bitter argument which split Austrian society. Some people said that if israel does not like the Austrian president who was elected in free elections, that is its problem, and that we Austrians should not worry about it. Other people regretted the deterioration in relations between the two countries.

[Melman] The Waldheim affair is not the only incident tarnishing the relations. Many Israelis are anxious about the extreme right's ascendance in Austria and about xenophobic and anti-Semitic manifestations.

[Vranitzky] The extreme right does not threaten Austria or, at least, does not pose a more serious threat to Austria than to the average European country, and it certainly constitutes less of a threat than in certain countries in Europe.

[Melman] Which ones?

[Vranitzky] I do not want to cite other countries as an example. I will only say that Austria borders on the former Communist bloc countries in Eastern Europe. Therefore, it is only natural that many refugees from those countries should come to Austria. At the same time, it will be fair and safe to say that Austria has adopted a moderate and middle-of-the-road approach toward the refugees knocking on its doors. We allow refugees access to Austria, but we keep the phenomenon under control. Thanks to this combined approach you do not hear about incidents of physical violence toward foreigners in Austria, as has been the case in other countries.

[Melman] Such as Germany?

[Vranitzky] Yes, such as other countries in which foreigners have been the target of attacks and arson. We definitely do not take the situation lightly. We keep a watchful eye so that similar incidents do not occur in our country. At my initiative, we have amended some laws to impede the resurgence of neo-Nazi activity.

[Melman] Your soothing remarks notwithstanding, as head of government and leader of the largest party, are you not apprehensive about the surge of the extreme right?

[Vranitzky] No. I do not think the extreme right in Austria can threaten the central government, but we must certainly not dismiss the danger. If we do not ignore the minor potential entailed in this phenomenon, we have a good chance of stopping it from evolving into a real threat.

[Melman] Austria has never assumed responsibility for Nazi crimes and refuses to pay reparations to victims of the Nazis based on the argument that it was itself a victim of Hitler's aggression. This policy enrages many Holocaust survivors, both in Israel and abroad.

[Vranitzky] From the time I joined the government as finance minister in 1984 we proposed a variety of ways to extend support and assistance to Jews of Austrian extraction living in Austria or outside it, particularly in Israel and the United States. However, only three years ago, we reached an agreement with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims, the U.S. Jewish organization dealing with the issue. We agreed to open a bank account and deposit 300 million Austrian schillings (some 130 million shekels—author's note). They have already withdrawn approximately half of that sum to pay reparations to Holocaust survivors.

In addition to that, I relayed a message to the Jewish community in Austria and the pertinent organizations in Israel that if they learn of any Holocaust survivors of Austrian origin who are experiencing hardship, social difficulties, poverty, or any other type of suffering, we will help them. Also, so as not to make it sound as if it were only a question of money, the government passed a law, which is still pending parliamentary approval, whereby we invite people born in Austria and their children to get Austrian citizenship without rescinding their current nationality. Austrian law bans regular citizens from holding dual citizenship. The amendment will only apply to Jews, who will be the only Austrians allowed to hold dual citizenship.

[Melman] We know that Austrian companies were in the past involved in arms sales to Arab countries, particularly to Syria and Iraq. Do you know about any new cases?

[Vranitzky] True, there were several cases in the past. The most serious was the arms sales to Iraq. Charges were filed against the people involved, and they were dealt with by the courts. The defendants were found guilty and sent to jail.

[Melman] Does Austria have a clear policy with regard to arms sales to the Middle East?

[Vranitzky] Yes, we have a clear policy not to sell weapons to countries that are in a state of war.

[Melman] Does this apply to Israel?

[Vranitzky] No, our policy on the issue does not apply to Israel.

[Melman] Your predecessor, Bruno Kreisky, was very involved in the promotion of peace in the Middle East and was famous for his attempts to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. You seem to be less active on the issue, or is it that Austria's importance in the international arena has lessened?

[Vranitzky] First of all, I would like to point out that in the six years of Waldheim's tenure as president of the republic, Austria's ability to promote peace in the Middle East was largely curtailed. Second, I do not think I have been less involved than Kreisky. One must bear in mind that the international conditions have changed since Kreisky's times and that the hostility between East and West has disappeared. The position of the superpowers toward the conflict has changed, and that is why we must find new missions. My mission is to emphasize Austria's role in promoting the process in the framework of the multilateral peace talks. The experience I acquired in the six years I have served as chancellor and the relations I have forged with leaders and prominent figures worldwide can be of help. Indeed, from time to time I contribute some of my experience and connections to help the sides to the conflict. If Kreisky were alive today, I have no doubt that he would look for an approach that differs from the one in the 1970's.

[Melman] Many Israelis did not have a good image of Bruno Kreisky. Do you think Israelis wronged him?

[Vranitzky] No, I do not think that you Israelis have wrongly tarnished his image.

Invites Rabin To Visit Austria

TA1106084993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky has invited Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to visit Austria soon.

Vranitzky said that Rabin had accepted the invitation. The date for the visit has not yet been set. Our correspondent Arye Shor reports that in a news conference to mark the end of his visit to Israel, the Austrian chancellor said he would deliver an invitation from Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman to his Austrian counterpart Thomas Klestil to visit Israel.

Vranitzky expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit, and said he believed that a foundation had been laid for improved relations between his country and Israel. He noted that it had been decided to expand economic, education, and cultural ties between the two countries.

Comments on Negotiations

TA1106103793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky also said that it is up to Israel and the Palestinians to negotiate their differences and that the right of self-determination does not necessarily mean the establishment of an independent state.

[Begin Vranitzky recording, in English] These negotiations on a bilateral basis have to be carried out between Israel and her neighbors. So therefore, of course, it is a matter for Israel and her neighbors how to define formally and politically any future outcome of the peace process. We do not wish to interfere. There is no intention to do so.

Secondly, as far as the right of self-determination is concerned, I think and I believe that, of course, the right of self-determination must not be denied to any people in the world. Another question is the consequences of that. And the consequence in my feeling, for all practical, political purposes, does not necessarily mean that the right of self-determination in each case must necessarily lead to the establishing of a new state. [end recording]

Vranitzky Aide Meets With Palestinians

TA1006113593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The assistant to the visiting Austrian chancellor this morning met with a group of Palestinian representatives in East Jerusalem. On the agenda: Austrian economic aid to the territories, and the opportunity for Palestinians to describe their situation after two and a half months of closure. The political director of the Austrian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ernst Sucharipa, described the meeting to Qol Yisra'el reporter Moti Amir:

[Begin Sucharipa recording] The purpose was twofold really: to get an impression of how the Palestinian side sees the peace process, but I think much more important, what we can contribute as a concrete follow-up in terms of Austrian business interests, economic assistance, cultural projects in the occupied territories. We also have a number of concrete ideas also in the cultural field, [words indistinct] about this idea of a youth conference taking place in Vienna next year should combine Palestinian, Israeli, and other, also Arab, youngsters. I think that's the whole list of follow-ups that we will now take up. [end recording]

Palestinian representative Muhammad (Shutaynah) said the meeting was a positive one:

[Begin (Shutaynah) recording] I think it was very productive meeting. There has been a pledge that Austria is going to contribute to the emergency fund that has been created during the Rome talks at the multilaterals. Also, we have stated to our Austrian friends that we express to them the daily sufferings of the Palestinian people on the ground. We stressed the point of the closure of Jerusalem and how important Jerusalem is for everybody. On the other hand, we briefed them on the peace process and where the peace process is at the moment, as well as.... You know, Austria did propose the regional electric network for the whole of the Middle East, and we did inject our input into this and the way we look at it.

We briefed them on the unemployment rate that is at the moment in the occupied territories: It went up to 47 percent due to the closure of the Israeli labor market in front of our laborers, as well as due to the return of Palestinian workers from the Gulf labor market and also the economic siege that the Palestinians live under in the occupied territories. [end recording]

Rubinstein Comments on Upcoming Peace Talks

TA1006191993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Interview with Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, by Shlomo Ganor and Yoni Ben-Menahem within the weekly "Meeting" program on 10 June; recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Ganor] Mr. Rubinstein, last night you returned from Washington where you conferred with a State Department team in anticipation of the opening of the 10th round of talks next week. The question is, sir, what did you conclude in your talks?

[Rubinstein] First of all, allow me to say good evening to the spectators. The talks were designed to prepare for the negotiations, which are scheduled to resume next week. They were serious talks, touching upon a variety of issues in the negotiations on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks, with emphasis on the latter. It is hoped that we will be able to promote, to the extent possible, the paper that sums up the principles shared by both sides. Other ideas were raised, such as the proposal to advance the transfer of powers in several spheres, which has not yet been fulfilled. We definitely hope our counterparts will show the disposition to conduct negotiations and that the negotiations within this round of talks are continuous and without any of the interruptions in the meetings of the committees or the reduced attendance at the plenum we experienced in the past which, with all due

respect, we thought were unnecessary. We hope for businesslike discussions and progress.

[Ganor] That is based on the assumption that the Palestinian delegation indeed shows up. However, as we heard from Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir a few minutes ago, they have not yet made a decision.

[Rubinstein] We hope they will come. It would be a pity if they did not. We assume that they will report to the talks. Moreover, I think the right approach should not be one of negotiations about the negotiations. In other words, that every round of talks or meeting—we do no longer talk so much about rounds of talks—should be preceded by tiresome negotiations that consume time and energy on whether to conduct negotiations. After all, there is no alternative to negotiations. So, let us conduct negotiations.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, the United States promised to display active involvement in the negotiations. In your visit, did you discern the beginnings of such involvement? Will this round be held with active U.S. involvement?

[Rubinstein] I believe so. Already in the last round of talks there was increasing U.S. involvement in the name of full partner, and there is no reason why this should not continue in the upcoming round.

[Ben-Menahem] Is there an additional new U.S. paper on the joint declaration of principles?

[Rubinstein] A paper was submitted at the end of the last meeting, and this paper is still on the table. We have some observations to make about this paper, of course, and I suppose that our Palestinian counterparts also do. I would like to emphasize that there is a great deal in common on issues on which progress has been made. Unfortunately, as presented to the Palestinian public by some of the Palestinian delegates, the picture was one of gloom and pessimism. Of course, one is entitled to be gloomy or pessimistic, but I suggest that the picture we described is as it really is. The real picture, as reflected in the papers presented by the two sides and in the U.S. paper, shows that there are many spheres on which there is agreement. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Menahem] During the next round of talks, will you raise the possibility of implementing the interim stage in Gaza first, as proposed by the prime minister?

[Rubinstein] What the prime minister said—and naturally all of us support this policy—is that if an agreement-in-principle is achieved, it will be possible to implement it in Gaza first, because the problems there are more...

[Ganor, interrupting] More complex.

[Rubinstein] No. In terms of implementing the practical arrangement, it can be easier than in Judaea and Samaria. All this, however, must be reached in the framework of an agreement. I am saying this in order to make it clear that we do not intend to change the format, which calls for reaching an agreement-in-principle first. Later on, it will be possible to raise the issue of Gaza First.

[Ganor] The Palestinians are apprehensive about this issue and want to create a linkage between Judaea and Samaria, on one hand, and the Gaza Strip, on the other.

[Rubinstein] I do not think that I have anything to add in this issue. But let me make the following observation: You referred to the Palestinians' apprehensions twice. I respect both the Palestinians and their concerns. We are saddened, however, by the fact that the situation has been misrepresented to the Palestinian public, because not all our proposals were presented. Consequently an atmosphere of pessimism was created.

[Ben-Menahem] Why are they behaving this way, Dr. Rubinstein?

[Rubinstein] It is very difficult for me to understand this. Let me add, however, that we made various proposals between sessions. I personally contacted the most senior parties several times—I do not want to mention any names—and urged them to raise whatever concerns they might have. We are here, they are here, so why should we not speak about our problems? Moreover, referring to human rights or humanitarian issues, which are of great interest to them and which they constantly raise in Washington, I suggested that they appoint liaison officers from among their delegation to deal with this in an ongoing manner with the Civil Administration to clear up any misunderstandings. This proposal was heartily adopted by the Civil Administration, the coordinator of activities, and the political echelon. Regrettably, this proposal was not accepted. There are probably explanations for this, and I respect the other side. At the same time, however, they can advance their interests in a much more intensive and energetic manner.

[Ben-Menahem] What about the closure? This is one of the most troubling issues faced by the Palestinians. Will you carry out any steps to ease the closure prior to or during the 10th round?

[Rubinstein] Look, the closure was not imposed in order to harass the Palestinians. Its intention was to solve a pressing security problem faced by the government—this was its objective. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] During the previous rounds of talks we have become accustomed to new Israeli gestures. Will Israel implement new gestures on the eve of the upcoming round of talks?

[Rubinstein] First, let me reiterate that we always evince openness in issues relating to the personal welfare of the population. Incidentally, when the Palestinians raised various issues in the previous rounds, they were immediately answered in a direct and fair way by the most senior political echelon. Referring to your specific question, it is not a matter of gestures, but rather of evincing openness to problems. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] What are Israel's expectations of the Palestinians on the eve of the next round of talks?

[Rubinstein] First, our expectations are mainly centered on the negotiations themselves—we hope there will be no procrastination in the negotiations process. Second, we went halfway toward the Palestinians on many issues relating to the objectives, authorities, land, and so on. The negotiations were not exhaustive and did not deal with all the issues. We have security and political interests which also must be met, and for this to happen the other side has to take the appropriate steps. I am saying this with utmost conviction. Whoever is familiar with all our proposals knows that they are serious and that the ball is currently in the Palestinian court.

[Ben-Menahem] Where do the Americans come in? You referred to Israel and to the Palestinians, but where are the Americans? Are they not supposed to encourage and push the talks forward?

[Rubinstein] The Americans raised the level of their activity during the last round of talks. I assume that they will continue acting in this vein. We believe that they can make a serious contribution.

[Ganor] Does this include the shuttle by the secretary of state to our region?

[Rubinstein] I know nothing of such an intention at this stage. They decide what level of activity to pursue and coordinate it with us.

[Ben-Menahem] Perhaps the level of talks should be upgraded? Perhaps this would facilitate the negotiations.

[Rubinstein] When I say that we should hear what they have to say, this refers to their mutual consultations with both sides—the Palestinians and us. Referring to the issue of upgrading, this was not raised in this context. The most pressing issue at the moment is to resume the negotiations.

[Ganor] You are also the head of our delegation for talks with Jordan. How close are we to an agreement with Jordan?

[Rubinstein] We have actually completed the negotiations on what is known as the agenda [last word in English]. This is not a mere list of issues; it is a substantive document which refers to a detailed negotiations process and enumerates the areas in which the negotiations will be conducted, as well as including indications for solutions. This document has actually been completed. The Jordanians still want to introduce minor changes, and I respect what they say. But for all practical purposes this document has been completed. The question is how to advance various issues within the framework of this agenda during the negotiations process. There is a lot to be done in this issue. I must say that the Jordanian attitude, which we respect, is that they consider progress with them as dependent on progress on the Palestinian track. We are trying to make all the progress we can even prior to a breakthrough in the Palestinian track. This is what we are doing in the issue of water, certain economic issues, and environmental issues.

[Ganor] Finally, do you expect a breakthrough along the two tracks with which you are dealing?

[Rubinstein] We are approaching the talks open-mindedly and with a desire to achieve progress. I think that whoever examines objectively the negotiations' progress to this point, will discover that we are making an effort, and we will certainly continue to make such an effort. I hope that by delving into the substance of the issues in a spirit of mutual respect we will be able to make progress.

[Ganor] Thank you very much, Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein.

Syrian Progress in Peace Talks Said Hindered by Iran

TA1106084693 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Jun 93 p 4

[Report by Yehoshu'a Me'iri and Sari'el Shani]

[Excerpt] Progress in the political negotiations between Israel and the Syrians is being hindered by Iran's pressure on Syria. Secret contacts between the two countries to try and find a formula to enable Hizballah to continue its operations in Lebanon (as the Iranians demand) while Syria complies with U.S. pressure have failed.

The United States and Israel have in recent weeks made it clear to Syria that if Hizballah—which is under Syria's control—is not reined in, no real progress will be made in the peace talks. The U.S. Embassy in Cairo last night confirmed to HADASHOT that a message in this spirit has recently been relayed to Syria.

Iranian-Syrian talks have taken place in the last two months in various European capitals and through an exchange of envoys between Tehran and Damascus. Reliable Syrian sources in Cairo confirmed that the contacts were initiated by Syria in the wake of the U.S. Administration's pressure on it to prevent Hizballah's operations against Israel.

Iran contends that the agreement it signed with Syria regulates Hizballah's freedom of action, and insists that Syria comply with it. The Syrian sources in Cairo noted that Iran and Syria may very soon resume their negotiations on the issue.

Speaking to HADASHOT last night, Arab diplomats in Cairo also estimated that Syria's progress in the peace process in being hindered by the misunderstanding with Iran and their inability to meet the Israeli and U.S. demands to curb terror from Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

Rabin Discusses Palestinians, Syria, Iran

PM1006155593 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 10 Jun 93 p9

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Simonetta Della Seta and Marcello Foa in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—[Passage omitted] [IL GIORNALE] In less than a week's time, the peace talks will get under way again in Washington and various sides have sent positive signals. Can we expect concrete results with at least one of the interlocutors?

[Rabin] It all depends on the two key partners, Syria and the Palestinian delegation from the territories: I hope that this round will mark a real opening up in their attitude. The problems with Jordan and Lebanon are actually less acute, but for the time being, at least, there is no chance either of Jordan signing a separate treaty unless progress is made on a solution to the Palestinian problem or of Lebanon deciding to find any agreement before Syria does.

[IL GIORNALE] In an interview with an Israeli daily paper, PLO leader 'Arafat asked you to agree to the principle of granting autonomy to the Gaza Strip and a city on the West Bank even before a final agreement is reached. Is that possible?

[Rabin] To tie Gaza to a city on the West Bank is a nonsense. There can be no doubt, however, that autonomy could be granted in stages, and I think that to experiment with it in Gaza first of all might be a good idea.

[IL GIORNALE] So are you prepared to make Gaza autonomous before the rest of the territories?

[Rabin] It would be possible to start the self-governing experiment with Gaza even before the agreement is signed. It would first be necessary, however, to reach an agreement with the Palestinians on the most important points.

[IL GIORNALE] How is your proposal to the Palestinians structured?

[Rabin] We start with the basis of a five-year transitional agreement: Three years, at the latest, after it has come into force, we will begin discussions with the Palestinians to find a definitive solution based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 (the "land for peace" principle—IL GIORNALE editor's note). As for the transition period, the plan for sharing responsibility is virtually ready. The greater part of the powers and duties of the current Israeli civic administration in the territories, including education, trade, law and order, and justice, would pass to the Palestinians, who will be allowed to elect an executive council democratically. We will remain responsible for the lives of Israeli inhabitants in the territories and for our defense forces—redeployed, naturally.

[IL GIORNALE] Where justice is concerned, will the Palestinian Council have full or only local powers?

[Rabin] First of all, we are not talking about a legislative but an executive body. In the transition period we prefer to set aside generic definitions and concentrate on specific tasks like, for example, those regarding the municipality or the struggle against crime. Let us remember that we are talking about running a land, not about splitting up sovereignty over the territory. I say to the Palestinians: Let us sit down at the negotiations and carry on negotiating. All the options remain open in any case for when we discuss the definitive solution.

[IL GIORNALE] Does autonomy also provide for complete economic freedom, or will Palestinians be obliged to receive money via third parties, for example through Jordan?

[Rabin] It is a big mistake that today, alongside the peace negotiations, the international community—in particular Europe, the United States, and the wealthiest Arab countries—is not investing on a wide scale in infrastructures in the territories. We have done so by earmarking about $100 million for development. The EEC promised $80 million about two years ago; apparently about $35 million have arrived so far, for construction projects in Gaza. If the Palestinians saw that, side by side with the peace negotiations, at least $200 million worth of funds were to arrive from abroad to set their economy back on a level footing, they would be persuaded that the world is seriously interested in solving the problem. That is made even more urgent by the sealing of the territories, on account of which 120,000 Palestinians have not been able to come to Israel to work, losing over one-third of the occupied areas' GNP. Hence the need to create new jobs in the territories. We are alone in this effort for the time being, without any international assistance.

[IL GIORNALE] So you urge the West to invest on a wide scale in the West Bank and Gaza?

[Rabin] I appeal to everybody. Indeed, I do not understand why Saudi Arabia is not yet sending money.

[IL GIORNALE] Is there a chance of dealing directly with the Palestinians in this case?

[Rabin] Of course, we maintain that economic issues also fall within the province of the Palestinian Executive Council for the territories.

[IL GIORNALE] What about now, when the council for self-government has not yet been elected?

[Rabin] For the time being, we encourage everybody to channel new funds into existing projects. And we urge the Palestinians of the diaspora who have considerable savings to return home and invest them here in the territories. I want to remind the Palestinians that they will not be able to find work elsewhere even when an agreement on autonomy has been reached; indeed, the

job markets in the Arab countries are completely saturated, starting with Jordan, which recently had to absorb 300,000 Palestinians expelled from Kuwait.

[IL GIORNALE] Exactly three months after the decision to forbid Palestinians from the territories to enter Israel, it appears that the forced separation has provided both sides with the spirit and the stimulus to create independent economies.

[Rabin] To tell you the truth, that was not my primary intention when I decided to seal off the territories. That measure was adopted for one reason only: The security of the Israelis, threatened by a chain of attacks inside their own borders. As a result of this move, grave economic problems arose at first for both sides; I am thinking, for example, in Israel, of agriculture and the construction industry. Only in the long term will it be possible, I hope, for this solution to be useful in preparing us for the transition period. Neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians must be under any illusions: We will never return to the previous situation; the two economies, albeit interdependent, will have to learn to develop separately.

[IL GIORNALE] But do you not think that unemployment, along with the military repression caused by your struggle against terrorist groups, may have a negative influence on the Palestinians' spirit, and above all on their more moderate representatives' efforts?

[Rabin] It is my duty also to consider the other side of the problem: Unless I guarantee the Israeli people a sense of security, I will never be able to commit myself to the compromises I am prepared to reach.

[IL GIORNALE] After discovering that those responsible for killing Border Guard Toladano last December were four amateurs who in principle were not even linked with the fundamentalist movement's military arm, can you not consider repatriating those expelled in Lebanon?

[Rabin] In agreement with the United States, we have already made numerous concessions to those expelled, but they have never been taken up. Hamas is a movement which ideologically encourages the use of terror against the Palestinians themselves and against us: Its main aim is to conduct a holy war against Israel and, above all, to cause the negotiations to break down. I do not see why we should help people inspired by violence, terror, and the desire to put an end to our efforts for peace.

[IL GIORNALE] Don't you think that the time has come to strengthen Palestinian nondenominational forces and those open to dialogue? If, for example, Faysal al-Husayni, coordinator of the Palestinian delegation at the negotiations [title as given], were to make a public appeal to you, would you be willing to meet him personally?

[Rabin] I get the impression that Faysal al-Husayni has more problems with Tunis ('Arafat's PLO headquarters—IL GIORNALE editor's note) than with me. Let us not forget that our delegates meet with him on a regular basis. Inviting him to meet with me face to face, on the other hand, could embarrass him.

[IL GIORNALE] Everybody knows, however, that al-Husayni moves with 'Arafat's permission.

[Rabin] Unfortunately, it appears that orders often come from Tunis to slow down the dialogue, but the men who live here are not always of the same mind as those in Tunis. The outside veto (from Tunis) remains a problem for them, not for us. For us, the partners in dialogue remain the Palestinians living in the territories.

[IL GIORNALE] What point have things reached with Syria?

[Rabin] We have publicly announced that, in keeping with UN Resolutions 242 and 338, we are ready to withdraw Israeli forces from the Golan Heights, with borders guaranteed by the international community. But we must know what we will get in return. For us, "peace" means a solid, lasting agreement with open borders and the free passage of goods and people, and full diplomatic relations including the opening of embassies. So far, Syria has not provided us with any clarification regarding the alluring definition of "total peace" recently coined by the Damascus regime, whereas we want to know what its true meaning is. They ask us to commit ourselves to total withdrawal from the Golan, for which, by the way, we are not yet ready. For the time being, I would remind you, we are only talking about the possibility of withdrawal: We will not negotiate the geographical or territorial dimension until we know what the Syrians mean by "total peace."

[IL GIORNALE] Can we expect to see a meeting at foreign minister level soon?

[Rabin] The obstacles come from Syria. I hope that Damascus will accept the idea in the end.

[IL GIORNALE] What about the inhabitants of Golan? Can they sleep easy, or would they be well advised to worry in view of the withdrawal?

[Rabin] I recognize the pioneering efforts and the seriousness of the majority of our citizens resident on the heights. Israel, however, has already announced that it is ready to withdraw.

[IL GIORNALE] It is clear, however, from opinion polls too, that Israeli public opinion is categorically opposed to any territorial concession. How do you envisage addressing this problem in the case of a peace settlement?

[Rabin] As far as negotiations with the Palestinians are concerned, we are not talking about territorial compromise for the time being. Transitional autonomy, in fact, does not grant them, as we said earlier, any rights of sovereignty. In that period nobody will be considered to have sovereignty over this land. Sovereignty will be discussed only for the definitive solution.

[IL GIORNALE] Some groups of settlers have announced that when Palestinian autonomy comes into force, they will defend themselves, even resorting to armed struggle. What measures will you take in the face of initiatives of this nature?

[Rabin] Israel is a democratic country, and in democracy there are no private armies or armed groups. I do not accept, on principle, either groups or situations of this type.

[IL GIORNALE] Once Israel used to point to Iraq as the most dangerous power in the region; today you are pointing the finger at Iran: What has happened, and what can Israel and the Western countries do to control the rapid development of Iran's nuclear power?

[Rabin] There can be no doubt that Iran is trying to spread Khomeyni-ism throughout the Mediterranean basin. Tehran has become the source of assistance and inspiration for various Islamic fundamentalist factions. Just look at Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt: Sudan is already in the hands of Iranian fundamentalists. Their actions extend to the occupied territories and to Lebanon through the Hizballah. It is a generalized phenomenon: They are trying to overthrow the structure of the Arab regimes and to widen their influence as far as the West and Israel.

[IL GIORNALE] So is it possible that Israel will find an alliance with certain Arab countries on that front?

[Rabin] It depends on them; unfortunately we cannot be the ones to propose it.

Lubrani Comments on 10th Round of Talks With Lebanon

TA1006174693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation for talks with Lebanon, says that Israel has no territorial demands on Lebanon, but only security-related demands, adding that supreme efforts will be made to overcome the problems. Uri Lubrani made these remarks during a meeting with Arab affairs correspondents. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports:

[Begin recording] [Gus] Israel hopes that during the 10th round it will be possible to advance along the Lebanese track without any problems for any side. Uri Lubrani hopes that progress will be achieved, although he is doubtful whether such progress can be made before progress is attained on the Syrian track:

[Lubrani] We are departing for Washington hoping that during this meeting we will be able to make progress in this issue. We believe that we should and can achieve such progress without causing any political problems neither to the Israeli or the Lebanese side. We want to attain an open, serious, and professional discussion on the security problems that are still pending between us and Lebanon.

[Gus] Israel has clarified it has no territorial demands on Lebanon, nor any demands on assets or natural resources. The only problem is that of security, and here Israel will try to use all its wisdom and power to attain progress. The last round of talks ended with a Lebanese leak of the document submitted by Israel, which included a proposal to establish officers committees:

[Lubrani] The document published in AL-SAFIR was the document that we submitted to Lebanon and that we wanted to keep secret. We were certainly opposed to its being publicized without our concurrence. We have not received a clear Lebanese answer to this document. The Lebanese answer, as we understand it today, is included in a Lebanese document which does not directly answer our document. This Lebanese document is still under discussion between us and the Lebanese delegation. We submitted to the Lebanese delegation several questions related to understanding the document that they submitted to us.

[Gus] Can we expect significant progress? Will the next round of talks be decisive? Lubrani answers in the spirit of the Orient:

[Lubrani] Usually I am a man of understatement [preceding word in English]. I do not want to speak of a decisive round of talks. I am only saying to myself, and I want to say this to you as well, that while I sincerely hope progress will be achieved, I urge patience, patience, and patience. [end recording]

U.S. Submits Proposals on Talks With Lebanon

TA1106093793 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] On the eve of the resumption of the peace talks in Washington, the United States submitted to Israel and Lebanon an unofficial paper that spells out the gaps in the positions of the sides and suggests formulas to bridge them.

The U.S. paper points to a continuation of the heightened active U.S. involvement in the talks, in accordance with the statements made by Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the last few days. This is the second paper the United States has presented in the course of the talks, in addition to the draft proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian document of principles it put forth at the end of the previous round of talks.

The new U.S. document, known in diplomatic jargon as a nonpaper [previous word in English], compares the documents presented independently by Israel and Lebanon in previous rounds of talks. It compares the positions of the sides in terms of substance and formulation and offers bridging proposals. The Americans are seeking to bridge Lebanon's position that Israel must first withdraw from south Lebanon before a joint military commission is set up to discuss future security arrangements, with Israel's position that the military

commission should be established now and that a withdrawal should be discussed within the framework of comprehensive political and security arrangements. The U.S. paper also proposes a name for the military commission, an issue on which the sides have so far failed to agree. The United States proposes that the commission of officers be called "joint military working group" in view of the fact that the two sides have at one stage or another, albeit not together, agreed to this name.

On the Palestinian track, too, the Americans intend to display heightened activity in a bid to reach a joint declaration of principles in the course of the upcoming round of talks. Political sources in Jerusalem noted last night that the Americans no longer want to secure the "declaration about progress" they mentioned in the latest round, and are striving for a more far-reaching outcome in the form of a sweeping declaration of principles.

On the Syrian track, the Jerusalem sources believe that the Americans will not be overly active, after coming to the conclusion in the wake of President al-Asad's response to President Clinton's letter that "the situation is not ripe" for major U.S. intervention. [passage omitted]

Beilin Urges U.S. Intervention To Spur Talks

NC1006152593 Paris AFP in English 1455 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Jerusalem, June 10 (AFP)—Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin Thursday [10 June] urged the United States to intervene to secure a breakthrough in the Middle East peace talks, which are set to resume on Tuesday.

"I really fear that without greater American intervention the negotiations will keep on treading water as has happened since September," Beilin told AFP.

"American intervention is needed as much in the negotiations with the Palestinians as with Syria."

He said he hoped that Israel and the Palestinians would agree on a "declaration of principles" and that an agenda for negotations would be sealed with Syria during the 10th round of talks in Washington.

"The main obstacle with the Palestinians is that they want an assurance that the interim autonomy regime will lead in the following phase to an Israeli withdrawal while Israel wants to keep its options open," Beilin explained.

He noted that while Syria demands a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace, Israel wants guarantees that the peace will be total with open borders and trade and diplomatic relations before withdrawing.

Rabin: Ready To Take Calculated Risks for Peace

TA1106052193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Former U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz believes that Israel can reach a peace agreement. However, it must remain strong in order to guarantee that the agreement will be upheld. The peace dividend is peace itself, not the reduction of Israel's military power, George Shultz asserted. The former secretary of state was speaking yesterday in Tel Aviv at a festive dinner held in his honor by the Israeli Institute for Democracy with the participation of Israel's political elite. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz was there.

[Begin recording] [Raz] A lot of respect and love were lavished on George Shultz by Israel's political elite, both past and present, as well as by University economists and businessmen. They all came to mutually recall their long acquaintance, much like a get together of old friends. Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir proudly recalled how he had quashed the idea of convening an international conference. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in an attempt to score one off his predecessor, turned to the guest of honor and said: it does not matter whether you call the peace initiatives an international conference or the Madrid Conference. Basically, they are all the same thing. People focus on the semantics instead of the real facts. After settling this small account, Rabin added: Israel was now ready for a change which included taking calculated risks for peace.

[Rabin, in English] I believe that Israel today is ready for a change, a change in which we will take calculated risks for peace, changes that will be introduced to our political, social, and economic systems. The international situation, the openness vis a vis Israel....

[Raz translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] The international situation and the openness vis a vis Israel all offer us extraordinary opportunities and we are determined to exploit them, Yitzhaq Rabin said.

George Shultz was willing to impart only one piece of advice, a recommendation that both Yitzhaq Rabin and Yitzhaq Shamir will be happy to follow.

[Shultz, in English] It is possible to reach an agreement, and as I say, I hope and pray that it is. Never forget that in order to for those agreements to be kept, Israel has to remain strong. The peace dividend is peace, not the withering away of the strength that is necessary to keep the peace. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[A related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 11 June adds that "with regard to the Lebanese negotiations track, Yitzhaq Rabin expressed pessimism regarding the prospects for independent progress on this track. Lebanon will not be the second Arab country to sign a peace agreement with Israel, Rabin told George Shultz." In a recorded passage in English, Rabin says: "Basically, the situation in Lebanon

has not changed. Still terror from there, still without green light from Damascus nothing will be done, as it was in 1983."]

Foreign Ministry Director General on EC Requests

TA1106073993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir by Sheli Yehimovich—live]

[Text] [Yehimovich] The ambassadors of Britain, Belgium, and Denmark, the three representatives of the European Troika, have submitted a proposal on behalf of the EC to Uri Savir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, calling for an easing of restrictions on residents of the territories in a bid to implement what they describe as confidence-building measures between Israel and the Palestinians. Good morning to Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir.

[Savir] Good morning.

[Yehimovich] What is the EC Troika actually asking Israel for? Do they have any new or far-reaching requests?

[Savir] I would not describe them as far-reaching. This is the seventh time this year that the Troika has appealed to Israel to implement what are known as confidence-building measures in the territories, both in the economic sphere—in order to make things easier for the populace—as well as with regard to the security aspect.

[Yehimovich] Could you be more specific? What kind of steps for example?

[Savir] In the security field, they are asking us to refrain from collective punishment, to ease the closure, and to avoid using live ammunition as much as possible. In the economic domain, they would like us to permit investments and open the bridges for exports from the territories.

[Yehimovich] How are such requests or proposals by the EC received in Israel? How do we regard such requests? Is there a tendency to agree to them, or to try and meet them half-way?

[Savir] Look, we have a very extensive and positive relationship with the EC that involves many interests. Nevertheless, I told the ambassadors this time, in the context of a continuous dialogue with Europe, that we are already moving beyond various goodwill gestures. What they are proposing is a bit like offering a sick man an aspirin. To a certain extent, they are still discussing alleviating the symptoms while Israel is prepared to carry out major surgery in order to change the actual status quo. As for the economic sphere, we will welcome any investments, and we call on the EC to invest in the territories. Regarding security issues, I reminded them of the terrorism aspect and suggested that they condemn it. I explained that the possibility for real change in the relations between the two peoples lies in the kind of arrangement Israel is offering. There is a peculiar side to things here. When we initiated certain goodwill gestures in the past, we were told that this would merely alleviate the symptoms while root treatment was called for. Now, when Israel proposes addressing the problems at their very root and seeks to implement fundamental changes by establishing Palestinian self-government and transferring various authorities to them, they come asking us to make goodwill gestures. We have nothing against goodwill gestures, but they will not resolve the problem.

[Yehimovich] When you say that although Israel has nothing against goodwill gestures, they do not offer the solution to the problem, does that mean that we will stop making such gestures, or could we implement such gestures while dealing with the roots of the conflict?

[Savir] We have implemented many steps, commonly known as goodwill gestures, and other tactical changes. We may continue to carry out such steps in the future. In all truth, however, the real possibility for confidence building between the two parties, which must be a joint effort, mainly lies within the context of an agreement such as the one proposed today in Washington in which progress must be made on the self-government track. I believe that this exaggerated focus on goodwill gestures and symptoms, with all respect for their significance, is a bit of an attempt to avoid dealing with the main issues and the need for the Palestinians to make the kind of decisions, which I feel that Israel is prepared to make, on changing the nature of the relationship between the Palestinians and Israel, and to make progress toward self- government. Then, there will be no need for confidence-building measures because the situation itself will help foster trust and mutual respect. The Palestinians will manage their own affairs and we will be in charge of security in the field.

[Yehimovich] Thank you, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir.

East Jerusalem Paper Interviews Rabin

TA1006154893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Jun 93 p 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Da'ud Kuttab at Rabin's office in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Kuttab] Do you have good news for the Palestinians?

[Rabin] I believe the good news is we are ready to engage in negotiations leading to an agreement with a Palestinian delegation whose makeup was based on the letter of invitation to the peace talks in Madrid. I was not prime minister at that time, but the Palestinians accepted this delegation.

We are ready to reach agreement on a phased solution called for by this letter, which would include arrangements for an interim self-government in the territories. We view these arrangements as a first stage that does not

exceed five years. At a date no later than the third year from the start of the transitional period, talks will begin over a final solution based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 within framework of the various interpretations of these two resolutions. I believe that the first stage is the most important one because our goal is to effect a change in the lives of the Palestinians in the territories on the following bases:

1. The transfer of most Civil Administration powers to an executive council elected by the Palestinians. We believe in elections. This is our proposal, but we cannot impose it.

2. We will remain responsible for the lives of Israelis in the territories and the security situation as a whole. Israeli forces will be redeployed according to security needs. As for the executive council, we stress that it will not be a parliament.

As for the transitional stage, let us wait until the talks begin. I am certain that many things will change when vital issues like health, education, agriculture, the courts, the judiciary, and prisons are transferred to the Palestinian side.

[Kuttab] What are the exceptions?

[Rabin] Everything relating to the lives of Palestinians will be transferred. We are not talking about separating the areas but distributing the management of the territories.

[Kuttab] You said that most of the Civil Administration powers will be transferred. What are the powers that you intend to exclude?

[Rabin] I do not want to talk about exceptions. I expect that almost all powers will be transferred, but the principle is that the Palestinians will run their own affairs. We will be responsible for the Israelis. They are not a large number. We accept that all private Palestinian lands be managed by Palestinians. In order to prevent friction, perhaps there will be some restrictions on the use of land. If land near a settlement is classified as agricultural, using that land for housing purposes will cause friction.

[Kuttab] Do you have a perception of what will happen to the occupied territories 15 years from now?

[Rabin] There are several options, all of which depend on the first stage and on the behavior of the Palestinians during this stage. Let me be frank: There is a basic disagreement in Israel. The Likud advocates Greater Israel. I, as a Jew believe in the Jewish people's right to all the land of Israel, but in order to be realistic I do not wish to annex 1.8 million Palestinians residing in the territories. Therefore, I am not a supporter of Greater Israel, but at the same time I do not accept withdrawal to the lines before the Six Day War. We want Jerusalem to remain united under Israeli sovereignty. Perhaps some changes will take place here and there for security reasons, but we do not want a large number of Palestinians to be added to the state of Israel.

[Kuttab] So do you see annexation as an option after the end of the transitional stage?

[Rabin] Full annexation, no.

[Kuttab] Then how do you see the future?

[Rabin] I believe that if we succeed in the transitional period to foster confidence between the two parties, or reduce the feelings of hatred and skepticism, there will be many options for the future. Among them some kind of link or cooperation with Jordan. It will also be possible to discuss a certain arrangement between Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan. For example, the closure made us realize how dependent the Palestinian economy in the territories is on Israel.

[Kuttab] But the policies of previous Israeli Governments encouraged this dependence.

[Rabin] Now I am ready [to reverse those policies].

[Kuttab] Perhaps now, but not in the past.

[Rabin] I was ready when I was minister of defense. I talked with everyone. If tomorrow Saudi Arabia wishes to invest billions of dollars, in cooperation with wealthy Palestinians, I will be the first to welcome such investment.

[Kuttab] Since the closure, restrictions on economic relations between the occupied territories and abroad, especially Jordan, have not been reduced.

[Rabin] I cannot decide for Jordan. I have done what I could. I have talked with the Americans and the Europeans.

[Kuttab] But there are many things that Israel can do. Taxes in the territories are higher than in Israel.

[Rabin] This is not correct.

[Kuttab] Of course it is correct. There is a case before the High Court of Justice over this issue.

[Rabin] Give me one example.

[Kuttab] The minimum taxable monthly income in Israel is 1,200 shekels, while in the West Bank and Gaza Strip it is 800 shekels.

[Rabin] We have to finance education and health.

[Kuttab] It seems that it is unfair for us to pay more taxes while our economic and living situation is worse than that of the Israelis.

[Rabin] Look, there are two options [as published]—that we become a single unit. This will be contrary to our international commitments, but the areas now are under military rule and are governed by a different law. We have our own economy and you have yours. True your economy depends on work in Israel. The annual income of 120,000 laborers in Israel was $700 million, while

your export to Jordan and the Arab world, via Jordan, did not exceed $100 million.

[Kuttab] The reason for that are freight duties. It is cheaper to send a shipment to London than to Amman.

[Rabin] This is not correct. We have reduced duties on the bridge in the same amount that we reduced them to passengers when we abolished the travel tax, which was 250 shekels.

[Kuttab] But the duties are still high.

[Rabin] We have to cover our expenses. The Israeli citizen pays his taxes when he buys tickets or travels by sea. That is included in the price of the ticket. This income covers the costs of maintaining harbors and airports.

[Kuttab] You said that the interim period will be five years. What guarantee is there? There are many skeptics among our people. Even a U.S. expert has said that this period might continue for 20 years.

[Rabin] The guarantee is that we will be signing a peace treaty. We do not want the transitional stage to continue for long. There will be about three years in which to reach agreement on the final stage. We hope that after peace treaties are reached with the other Arab states, it will be easier for the Israelis.

[Kuttab] Will you agree, as did the Likud government, to the principle of binding arbitration if reaching a solution at the end of five years becomes difficult?

[Rabin] No one agrees to arbitration.

[Kuttab] What about the issue of Tabah? It was solved through arbitration.

[Rabin] Tabah was a very small area, about 600 square meters.

[Kuttab] But what do you say about the principle of arbitration?

[Rabin] We do not accept the principle of arbitration because we believe that the responsibility for finding a solution to the dispute, war, violence, and terrorism falls on both sides.

[Kuttab] But what should be done if the two sides do not reach a solution?

[Rabin] I do not believe in arbitration. I do not want things to be imposed either on you or on us.

[Kuttab] What do you mean when you say Gaza First?

[Rabin] I believe that when agreement is reached on what the transitional stage means, I will be ready to implement that agreement in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. If we agree to implement it in Gaza First as part of an agreement on principle and form, then it will not matter where it is being implemented. The important thing is first of all to reach agreement on arrangements for the transitional period. As for who will do this or that, what will we do, and what will be the mechanism for finding solutions when differences arise between us—those are premature issues.

[Kuttab] Today's newspapers said that there are problems with the Palestinian side, which is facing difficulties in making decisions. Don't you believe that it will be easier if you admitted what you know and what the Likud government knew, namely, that you are negotiating with the PLO?

[Rabin] I believe that since we are now discussing the transitional stage, which concerns the Palestinians of the territories, we have to negotiate with a delegation comprised from the residents of those territories. As far as we are concerned, they can consult with whomever they like. The important thing is that they are the negotiating delegation and we will reach agreement with them. As for the multilateral talks, which include the refugees committee, we will claim that there are two refugee problems. One of them manifested in the Palestinian refugees, and the other in Jewish refugees from Arab states. Regarding this committee, I have said that I prefer to see on it nonresiding Palestinian representatives from what was called Palestine under the British mandate. Therefore, we accepted Palestinian representatives from outside the territories. We also accepted this principle with regard to the economic development committee. Those were among the changes of my government. This committee was idle during the previous government's era. I agreed for refugees to participate in the refugees committee.

[Kuttab] What will you do if the names of members of the National Council in the occupied territories are announced?

[Rabin] I believe that the persons who are members in the National Council are wise and will not do such a thing.

[Kuttab] But what if the names are announced?

[Rabin] Since that is illegal, we will take measures.

[Kuttab] Will you stop negotiating?

[Rabin] I did not say that we will stop the negotiations. I said that we will have to take measures, but I did not specify which ones.

[Kuttab] You have talked about elections. How can elections be held when parties are considered illegal and when the territories lack radio and television stations for conducting an election campaign?

[Rabin] First of all if elections are to be held, we should reach agreement on their modalities. I do not know whether the elections will be held on the district or regional level, or separately in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There are many options. We are waiting to negotiate over these issues.

[Kuttab] Do you expect that legal parties will be allowed to be set up?

[Rabin] That depends on the form of elections. Will they be on a personal or group basis? We have not discussed these things yet, not because we do not want to but because the Palestinian delegation has not been authorized to do so. Of course, after a solution is reached, it will be possible to hold election campaigns and a way will be found to monitor the elections. I have no problem if U.S. senators come to monitor the elections.

[Kuttab] But you object to international supervision over the elections.

[Rabin] I differentiate between monitoring and supervision. Supervision means managing the elections. I do not agree to international supervision, but I will not object to monitoring from outside.

[Kuttab] What about Palestinian radio and television?

[Rabin] That will create a problem for us, but the issue is open for discussion. The important thing is first of all to reach agreement on the basic principle: How will the elections be conducted? Believe me, after an agreement is reached, problems such as those mentioned by you will be easily resolved.

[Kuttab] Will East Jerusalem residents be allowed to nominate themselves and vote in those elections?

[Rabin] I prefer to discuss this issue after reaching an overall agreement over the nature of the interim period and on how it will function. I do not rule out the possibility of their participation in the elections.

[Kuttab] Will they also be allowed to nominate themselves?

[Rabin] I meant that they will be allowed to cast their votes.

[Kuttab] You reversed a previous decision by Shamir's government when you accepted the participation of a Jerusalemite in the talks. What was the reason for that?

[Rabin] Let me remind you that when I presented my peace initiative in 1988, it was directed toward the Palestinians, because I believed then—and I still do—that first of all we have to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli track. At that time, I said in the cabinet and the media that I do not object to the participation of a Jerusalemite in the talks if he has a place of residence in the territories. I have not changed my position since.

[Kuttab] Does this mean that other Jerusalemites will be permitted to join the Palestinian delegation?

[Rabin] We agreed on one member. I believe that this is sufficient in the current stage.

[Kuttab] In your view, what is the future of Jerusalem's Arab residents, who exceed 150,000?

[Rabin] Each one of them can become an Israeli citizen. Perhaps a minority will not accept, but the majority will obtain Israeli citizenship. This is the policy of all previous governments, but since 1967 only 7 percent of East Jerusalem residents have requested Israeli citizenship. The majority have preferred to remain Jordanian citizens.

[Kuttab] The Americans have said that it will be possible to discuss the status of Jerusalem during the transitional stage. Why do you object to discussing the status of Jerusalem?

[Rabin] We have an agreement with the Americans that stipulates that the status of unified Jerusalem will not be determined within framework of the executive council's transitional authority. Jerusalem is part of Israel. We will not discuss its status during the interim period. As for participation in elections and other marginal issues that pertain to Palestinian residents of unified Jerusalem, this can be discussed. However, the basic problem is the status of the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip—a population of more than 1.8 million. They are the major problem.

[Kuttab] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says that it is not fair for settlers to commute from the West Bank to Jerusalem freely, while the West Bank's Arab residents are prevented from doing so. Frayj says that this is a sort of racial discrimination. What is your opinion?

[Rabin] When we decide what is permissible for Israeli and non-Israeli citizens, it will be possible to resolve this issue. The closure seeks to restrict the movement of Palestinians in the territories, but it does not concern the Palestinians in Jerusalem.

[Kuttab] The closure affects many Jerusalem residents, including myself.

[Rabin] Where do you live?

[Kuttab] In the Kefar 'Aqab region.

[Rabin] I do not know precisely where the dividing line falls, but the closure is neither contrary to international law nor to the Geneva Convention. We permit some 45,000 workers to come to Israel daily. In addition, we have also allowed doctors and students. Now, we have permitted about 1,200 students from Gaza to come to Jerusalem to take their exams. The closure does not contravene international law.

[Kuttab] Why should the closure continue?

[Rabin] Security has improved because movement has become organized. Permission to commute is given in accordance with the request's justification. If we feel that the security situation is continuing to improve and violence diminishing, we will increase the classes of residents allowed to commute. For example, we will allow women over a certain age to commute, but we have to examine the situation on a weekly basis.

[Kuttab] Are you saying that the closure will be eased week by week?

[Rabin] Perhaps in some cases.

[Kuttab] Are the closure borders similar to those of the interim period?

[Rabin] These are not borders. We are now separating the land under Israeli sovereignty from the territories, which are under military rule. I believe that the entire world wants us to maintain this separation, otherwise our act would be considered new annexation.

[Kuttab] Hanan 'Ashrawi says that West Bank and Gaza Strip residents are hostages at the hands of the Israeli Government, which it uses to exert pressure on the negotiators.

[Rabin] No. I assure you that if violence stops tomorrow, there will be no need for special measures to retaliate against violence. Believe me it gives me no pleasure to keep several thousand Palestinians in prisons or military detention camps. I also do not wish to keep the soldiers in the territories if there is no need for that. I do not like to seal houses or streets. I wish there was no need for that, but when there is violence and terrorism I have to act. This costs us money. We do not take pleasure in doing so, on the contrary.

[Kuttab] You have said that Israeli goodwill gestures were connected to the Palestinian side's consent to attend the ninth round. When that round ended, you said that if they had agreed on the joint statement there would have been new gestures. Is this not some kind of political blackmail?

[Rabin] I think that it is a mistake for the Palestinians to believe that every time that they go to the talks we have to offer them goodwill gestures.

[Kuttab] The Palestinian delegation members say that you reneged on your promises.

[Rabin] We did not make any promises to the Palestinians. We only promised the Americans.

[Kuttab] The press has said that you will allow the family reunification of 5,000 persons, but many separated couples have not obtained that permission yet.

[Rabin] Maybe there are some problems here and there.

[Kuttab] But do you not believe that separating families is inhuman?

[Rabin] We have agreed on numbers, not on principles.

[Kuttab] But I am asking you from the humanitarian aspect.

[Rabin] We are not the only country that does not allow family reunification.

[Kuttab] Can you name the country that does not respect reunification of couples and children?

[Rabin] There are a number of countries.

[Kuttab] Furayh Abu-Middyan, head of the Gaza Bar Association, says that Moshe Arens' era was less harmful than yours. The number of civilian deaths and wounded was less, because Arens pulled out the soldiers from densely populated areas.

[Rabin] Our fight is against terror, which has no bounds. We have set up observation posts because of the growing violence.

[Kuttab] Why don't your soldiers use shields in clashes with those who throw stones? Will this not reduce killings?

[Rabin] The instructions to soldiers are clear. That is not to use live ammunition except when their lives are in danger.

[Kuttab] But what about the shields? Are they not manly for your soldiers?

[Rabin] We are not in the same position as other places in the world. This is not a police problem. Let us be frank. We and you are not in the same entity. There is a religious, political, and ethnic difference. Therefore, one cannot deal with events in the territories as if they are demonstrations in Paris or London or a student demonstration in Tel Aviv. This is a conflict between two parties. What applies to a Tel Aviv demonstration does not apply to what is happening between the Israelis and Palestinians.

[Kuttab] Then you admit that there is a military occupation?

[Rabin] There is a military rule in the territories.

[Kuttab] Then why don't you accept the Geneva Conventions relating to occupied areas?

[Rabin] We accept the spirit of those conventions.

[Kuttab] But you do not accept their wording?

[Rabin] What do you mean?

[Kuttab] Deportation is rejected. Transfer of prisoners from occupied areas to the occupying country is rejected. Settlement activity is rejected. All these are a contravention of the Geneva Conventions.

[Rabin] True, deportation is not permissible, but let me remind you that according to the Geneva Conventions the death sentence is permissible, but we are not applying it despite the fact that in Israel there is a demand for it.

[Kuttab] Some are saying that the special units are carrying out death sentences. These statements have been made by human rights organizations.

[Rabin] I am certain that temporary deportation is much better than execution.

[Kuttab] Security authorities have detained a group whom you say is responsible for Toledano's death. What is the justification for keeping the deportees in south Lebanon?

[Rabin] Because Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has not been terminated. We have no illusion whatsoever that Hamas is a radical religious movement that exploits religion to set up terrorist groups not only here, but in Egypt, Algeria, and Sudan. In our case, their terrorism seeks to stop the peace talks. We are in a permanent state of war with them.

[Kuttab] Since we are in the midst of political moves, what is the justification for holding individuals in administrative detention for political reasons. Why are political prisoners not released?

[Rabin] Our conduct is in accordance with our own laws, which we have inherited from the British mandate. I was held in administrative detention for six months during the British mandate.

[Kuttab] My question did not have a legal but a political aspect. There were no peace talks with the British when you were detained.

[Rabin] There was no need for talks, because there was no fighting. Administrative detention is not an order simply an administrative measure that has one aim only, namely, not to allow instigation to carry out acts of violence. No Palestinian is detained because of expressing his political view. You can go to the radio station and say: I want a Palestinian state and the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. No one will detain you.

[Kuttab] Then why are those administrative detainees brought to trial?

[Rabin] Legally, a six-month detention is permitted. There are appeals committees to which every detainee can file a complaint. The committees can decide whether to confirm or reject the administrative detention.

[Kuttab] When the Likud was in power, you said in the Knesset that deportation was of no benefit. What has happened?

[Rabin] What I said at that time was that the manner in which deportation was implemented made it ineffective. What I did to about 415 persons was different. Deportation was carried out immediately, and it was a temporary deportation, not permanent. This is a more effective way, because it does not require legal measures that need several months to be implemented.

[Kuttab] Can we expect the return of old-time deportees?

[Rabin] Only those who are allowed in accordance with the law. We will see later.

[Kuttab] Do you mean that they have to file personal requests?

[Rabin] I don't know. I cannot speculate about the future. Everything depends on what will happen in the talks and in the territories.

[Kuttab] Thank you.

[Rabin] Let me add something. I believe that we are in a unique stage. There is a chance to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We cannot expect to settle all the problems.

The issue on the negotiating table is a two-stage solution. I hope that both sides will have the courage to make the necessary concessions in order to reach the first Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This is the first chance for the Palestinians to be real partners in the resolution of the conflict with them.

I was born in Jerusalem. I am the first Israeli prime minister born here. I have lived here all my life, except for five years when I was ambassador in Washington. I believe that it is possible for us to reach a solution. As the adage says: It takes only one side to ignite a war or foment problems, but it takes two sides to make peace.

[Kuttab] But this means that we should show a great deal of understanding for each other's problems.

[Rabin] I agree with this, but the more important question is: What are the basic issues for each side? The phased solution, which was advocated in the letter of invitation to the Madrid talks and which was accepted by the Palestinian side, represents a mechanism for answering this question.

Cooperation With Jordan on Water Resources Conservation

TA1106094493 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Jun 93 p 4

[Report by Ronit Morgenstern]

[Text] Israel and Jordan will cooperate on issues related to conserving water resources. Israel's Water Commissioner Gid'on Tzur said that within a few weeks Israel will send professional material to Jordan detailing ways for possible cooperation.

Tzur returned from a professional congress on the issue of water held in Vienna as part of the multilateral peace talks. Attending the congress were representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian delegation, and Egypt, but not of Syria and Lebanon.

The Palestinian delegates demanded that upon the establishment of the autonomy the Palestinians should have an independent water authority, but the issue remained in dispute. Tzur proposed to cooperate with the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip in pumping water into the coastal aquifer in order to replenish the ground water. He also proposed applying Israel's experience in recycling sewage water and conserving water resources in Gaza.

Tzur further proposed to set up a joint farm that would collect floodwater and look for ways to save water in agriculture.

Peres: No Opposition to Palestinian Radio, TV Stations

TA1006163793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz says the current problems in the negotiations between Israel and the Arabs are difficult, but he believes that there are answers and that an arrangement will be found. Shultz made these remarks during a ceremony in which he was awarded an honorary citizenship of Jerusalem. The ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, and Jerusalem dignitaries representing the various communities.

Our correspondent Gil Litman asked Minister Peres whether he supports the establishment of a Palestinian radio and television stations in the territories. Mr. Peres answered that there is no difference between a radio and television stations and a newspaper. According to Peres they are all legitimate means of communications, and the Arabs already have a written press.

Envoy Regrets Australian Decision on PLO Legation

TA1106094693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Australia, Yehuda Avner has expressed regret over the Australian Foreign Ministry's decision to permit the PLO to open an official legation in Canberra. He was thus reacting to Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evan's announcement that the PLO could open a legation in Australia, headed by a representative from the PLO's headquarters in Tunisia. Until now, the PLO was represented by an Australian national.

At the same time, the Australian foreign minister stressed that the PLO's representative would not enjoy diplomatic status. It was also reported that Australia would host a PLO delegation on an official visit. The date of the visit was not specified.

UN Envoy: No Opposition to Security Council Proposal

TA1006192593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The United States has reportedly opened up contacts to include Germany and Japan in the United Nations Security Council, this according to THE WASHINGTON POST. Qol Yisra'el's Washington correspondent says the Clinton administration wants to give expression to German and Japanese economic power, and to get their help in increased funding to support United Nations peacekeeping operations. It has been reported both Britain and France are against the idea, as are many Third World countries.

Israel's UN ambassador, Gad Ya'aqobi, spoke to reporter Amy Rhodes about the development:

[Begin recording] [Ya'aqobi] Israel will not oppose such a proposal. We have a very friendly relationship with Germany and Japan. But I am afraid that the whole move by the United States will not be completed positively, and by the way, may I stress that following a discussion I had with Douglas Bennett [as heard], the assistant secretary of state of the United States for international affairs, I was not impressed that this is a final position of the United States. It is a matter that is being discussed and studied, and they are collecting reactions from different member states in the United Nations in order to conclude their position on this matter. But anyhow I think that if such a proposal will be presented, it will face great opposition.

[Rhodes] You said that Israel will not oppose this move if it was brought forward. What impact if any will it have on Israel, if it does pass?

[Ya'aqobi] Israel will not oppose this move if the United States will propose it, because Israel has to think of its own position in the Security Council, and the inclusion of Germany and Japan will strengthen the support for Israel in the Security Council. [end recording]

Egyptian Soldier Injured by IDF in Border Incident

TA1106055193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] In an incident on the Egyptian-Israeli border, an Egyptian soldier was lightly injured by a ricochet when Israeli soldiers shot at a terrorist collaborator who fled across the border. Egypt has submitted a complaint over the affair to the liaison unit between the two countries, and the intelligence officer who commanded the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol has been reprimanded. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports from the south:

The embarrassing incident took place last Sunday [6 June] on the Egyptian border, but has only now been released for publication. On Sunday, a terrorist collaborator attempted to flee to Egypt over the border fence near Rafah's Canada refugee camp. An IDF patrol spotted the fleeing man as he climbed over the fence to the other side. The soldiers opened fire. The collaborator was not hurt. On the other hand, an Egyptian soldier standing nearby on the Egyptian side of the border was injured by a ricochet. The Egyptian soldier was very lightly injured, received medical treatment on the spot and returned to his unit. Egypt submitted a complaint over the affair to the liaison unit between the two countries. The IDF investigated the complaint and discovered that the patrol's commander, a reserves officer, had acted contrary to regulations. The officer was summoned by his superiors and received a reprimand. The IDF now hopes that this minor international incident that caused some embarrassment in Israel, is now over.

Settler Describes Structure, Goals of Underground

TA1106111593

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 11 June, in its HASHAVU'A weekend supplement on pages 2, 3, 4 and 5, carries a 6,000-word report by Shlomo Dror on an interview with a Jewish resident of the territories who is allegedly a member of a Jewish underground organization. The man, identified as Shatz, which is an acronym for civil servant, says: "We want to stop the so-called peace process. I want peace just like you or Yosi Sarid, only I do not believe this process will lead to peace. It will lead to ceding parts of Eretz Yisra'el, the establishment of a Palestinian state, the uprooting of Jews, and eventually to the destruction of the State of Israel."

Dror says he made contact with Shatz through a "resident of one of the West Bank settlements," who runs an archive with some "1,000 files on the persons released in the Jibril exchange deal and other Palestinian leaders." This person claims that someone broke into his archive and stole only the files on members of the Palestinian delegation and leading political figures in the territories. Judging from his discussions, Dror says: "Among the settlers in the territories, there are several compartmentalized underground cells, the members of which have all served in combat units in the Army. Currently, the cells are preparing for possible attacks on Palestinian leaders: surveillance, shooting practice, and an examination of arrival and get-away routes. So far, they have not gone beyond that, apparently," Dror concludes.

Describing the structure of the organization, Shatz says he does not know the exact number of its members or when it was set up. He says that each cell is made of up to three members who only know each other and the cell head. The head of the cell knows the leader of the organization, but not the other cell heads. Shatz stresses: "We are not an underground. We are not against the state of Israel. We are against its enemies." He states that attacking the members of the Palestinian delegation will make the peace talks collapse. "Just imagine the scandal that would break out if Faysal al-Husayni is shot, for example. Will you be able to tell who has done it? No! Neither will the Arabs. It may be Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It could even be an Israeli organization. For example, a while ago, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi was shot at in Gaza. Unfortunately, they missed. Do you know who fired the shot?" Shatz goes on to say it does not matter who fired that shot, but that after the shooting 'Abd-al-Shafi has become extreme, and that "the Americans are attracted to the extremism. Nothing could be better than having the Arabs torpedo the process themselves, with a little help from us." Shatz states that they have "the Palestinian delegates and members of other movements" targeted. He later tells Dror that they do not need to kill anybody; "an assassination attempt is enough to drive a message home." He says that the organization had planned to attack Hanan 'Ashrawi, and for several weeks he was personally involved in the surveillance. Eventually, this plan was dropped.

Asked when they will carry out their first operation, Shatz says: "we have no intention of taking action before we feel there is national support for our operations. We need our rabbis agreement. We cannot go ahead without it. At the same time, we do not need an explicit agreement, it can be given by way of an understanding." In response to another question, Shatz says they do not plan a revolution because the leadership is elected by the public, "but we are trying to influence it in various ways," adding: "in no way will we hurt Jews." Dismissing reports on arms arsenals the settlers are purchasing from criminals, Shatz says every settler is entitled to a licensed gun and that many receive arms from the Army. At the end of the interview, Shatz says that in selecting cell members, they were careful not to choose people who are publicly active "because the Shin Bet is keeping an eye on the activists."

Another report by Shlomo Dror on page 5 of the same HADASHOT issue, carries a reaction to the above article by "a senior Shin Bet source," who says that "there are signs of preparations for illegal activity in the territories." The source says that the security establishment is prepared to deal with a possible establishment of an underground in the territories, that they are closely following any activity and are deployed to stop it.

Shahal: No Need To Worry About Settlers Taking Up Arms

TA1106052393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the government bears full responsibility for the settlers. Speaking last night in Haifa to the regional Labor party office, Shahal said settlers would not be forgotten in the event of an agreement with the Palestinians. He said that there is no need to worry about Jews taking up arms in the event of a withdrawal from the territories because there are no extremist groups in the country that present a danger.

Election Law, Amendment Issue Spur Discussion

Recommendation for Changes to Law Denied

JN0906095593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jun 93 pp 1,2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Government officials said Tuesday [8 June] that the Cabinet had not discussed amending the Election Law.

"I can assure you that as far as government is concerned, there has been no discussion of amending or changing the Election Law," Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar told the JORDAN TIMES.

Dr. Abu-Nuwwar and Minister of state for Parliamentary affairs Jawad al-'Anani both categorically denied a report carried by the JORDAN TIMES and the London-based AL-HAYAT daily Tuesday. The report quoted unidentified sources as saying that a committee headed by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali had recommended changes to the law.

"There is no such committee whatsoever," Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said.

"(The reported committee) does not exist," Dr. al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES, confirming that the Cabinet had not discussed any changes to the Election Law.

The report claimed that the committee recommended amending the Election Law to introduce a one-man-one-vote system, lower the voting age from 19 to 18 and cancel an article banning members of "illegal organisations" from contesting parliamentary elections.

It quoted "informed sources" as expecting the amendments to be introduced into the law after the return of His Majesty King Husayn from a trip he is scheduled to make to the United States next week.

The report is "completely untrue," said Dr. Abu-Nuwwar.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat said Monday Dr. al-Majali had assured him that no decision to amend the Election Law had been taken by the government.

"The prime minister said the government had not taken any decision (on changing the law) and that any move in this context would be preceded by consultations in which everybody would participate," Dr. 'Arabiyat told the JORDAN TIMES after a meeting with Dr. al-Majali.

The prime minister's assurances, however, do not seem assuring enough to Jordan's largest political movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, which is seeking an extraordinary session of the House to ensure that the law would not be changed through a temporary legislation.

Influential Brotherhood Deputy Humam Sa'id told the JORDAN TIMES Tuesday that the Brotherhood would seek the support of other parliamentarians in requesting an extraordinary session of the House during a meeting of deputies to discuss this issue Wednesday.

The mandate of the House runs till mid-November and the Constitution stipulates that an extraordinary session could be held at the request of 41 deputies or more.

Member of Parliament and former Prime Minister, Tahir al-Masri, said the meeting was called to "hold consultations among ourselves," and not to agree on a request for an extraordinary session.

Dr. 'Arabiyat, a Brotherhood leader, said no agenda had been set for the meeting, which he said was being held at the request of a number of deputies to discuss "a number of issues."

In a statement it issued after a meeting of its members Tuesday, the Brotherhood said: "Any amendment to the Election Law should go through the legislative organisations in order to protect...national unity."

Dr. Sa'id said Brotherhood members were not satisfied with Dr. al-Majali's assurances that change would be introduced only after consulting with all sectors of society.

"Consultation is a broad term. As far as we are concerned, Parliament is the forum for consultation," he said.

The statement said it was still premature for the Brotherhood to decide on whether it will contest the elections, expected later this year, "and the movement will announce its position at the suitable time and in light of new developments and the general situation."

"Our decision to reject any temporary law is one of principle. We will reject a temporary law and we will resist it, but it is not yet decided how we will do that," Dr. Sa'id told the JORDAN TIMES. He did not rule out boycotting the elections as a possible way resisting any change in the law.

Brotherhood Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ukur said last week that the Brotherhood would boycott the elections if the law was changed. But the spokesman of the Brotherhood bloc at the House, Ibrahim Khuraysat, later reiterated earlier Brotherhood statements that no such decision had been taken.

President of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Ishaq al-Farhan also said that the IAF, under whose umbrella Brotherhood candidates would run for elections, had not adopted a final stand on the elections and would draw up its strategy after the government formally decides whether it would change the law.

Dr. Sa'id said that there was a broad agreement among Brotherhood members that the "temporary government" should not be given the mandate to decide on "issues of paramount national importance such as the elections and the (peace) negotiations."

Even though the Brotherhood did not formally [decide] whether a vote of confidence should be taken on the al-Majali government when and if an extraordinary session is convened, Dr. Sa'id said: "There is a general feeling among Brotherhood deputies that such a step could be necessary.

"A temporary government does not deal with dangerous issues. How could a temporary government speak about the most dangerous issues to the nation," he said.

Deputies Demand Clear Government Stand

JN1006092693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jun 93 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Members of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday [9 June] demanded that the government clearly define its position on the Election Law and insisted that any changes to the law should pass the legislature.

The deputies plan to obtain this clarification through a meeting that House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat is expected to request with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali Thursday.

"Any change or amendment to the Election Law should pass through the legislative authority in accordance with the Constitution and in commitment to cooperation between the two branches of which none should ignore the other," deputies said in a statement issued after a closed meeting at the House Wednesday.

Fifty-seven deputies attended the meeting, which was held to discuss possible government action on the Election Law.

The deputies demanded that the government call an extraordinary session of the House if it was planning to introduce any changes to the legislation "so that Parliament can exercise its constitutional authorities in legislation."

Deputies told the JORDAN TIMES after the meeting that they would request the convening of an extraordinary session if the government amended the law.

The Constitution stipulates that an extraordinary session could be held at the request of 41 deputies or more.

Spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood at the House Ibrahim Khuraysat told the JORDAN TIMES after the meeting that he "believe(s) there will be enough support for holding the session if the government changed the law."

Brotherhood Deputy Ahmad al-Haj said the bloc tried to obtain deputies' support for a bid to request an extraordinary session during Wednesday's meeting but the move was not supported by other legislators who gave "priority to other courses of action."

The Brotherhood was "satisfied" with the deputies' decision not to request an extraordinary session unless the government changes the law, said Mr. Khuraysat.

His Majesty King Husayn Wednesday told reporters that no change in the law will be introduced without consultations with all political groups and through a process similar to the one through which the National Charter was adopted.

Dr. al-Majali on Monday assured Dr. 'Arabiyat that government will not change the law without consultations "in which everybody would participate."

His assurances, however, fell short of satisfying the demands of the Brotherhood that no change be implemented without the approval of Parliament.

"Consultation is a broad term. As far as we are concerned, Parliament is the forum for consultations," Dr. Hammam, a Brotherhood deputy, said Tuesday. He said the Brotherhood would reject and resist any change to the law but added that the movement has not yet decided how to do that.

The Brotherhood Tuesday sought to leave its options open in the event of government amending the law unilaterally and did not rule out boycotting the ballot, scheduled for later this year.

Delegation to Peace Talks Leaves for Washington

NC1006171993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Members of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks left Beirut for Washington today to take part in the 10th round of negotiations, due to start on 15 June. The delegation comprises Ambassador Ja'far Mu'awiyah, Amb. Samir Mubarak, Amb. Jihad Murtada, Lieutenant Colonel Shafiq Mahran, and Major Nasif 'Ubayd.

Amb. Khalil Makkawi, deputy head of the delegation, left Beirut for Washington earlier today. The head of the delegation, Amb. Suhayl Shammas, will leave for Washington in the next few hours.

Shammas Comments on Talks

NC1106114193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Remarks by Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Washington peace talks, in response to an unidentified correspondent's question at Beirut Airport on 11 June before departing for Washington—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Ambassador Shammas. You are leaving for Washington today to participate in the 10th round of negotiations. Will Lebanon propose any specific roles or ideas in this round?

[Shammas] First, members of the negotiations team left for Washington through Europe yesterday. I am leaving today following the same route. As you mentioned, brother Darwish, we are going to participate in the 10th round, which starts on 15 July. The negotiations process is a continuing one, with each round linked to the other. The Lebanese stand was submitted in detail during the previous rounds. Lebanon submitted on 11 May a paper that contained a clear stand. Of course, we will engage the Israeli negotiating team in a discussion that will deal with the essence of the negotiations.

In this respect, and before you ask me as you usually do, I want to remind you that Lebanon has constant and unchangeable stands in its policy, namely that Lebanon insists and has the right to insist on a full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally recognized borders; that, consequently, Resolution 425 was unanimously adopted by the highest international authority, the Security Council; that this resolution must be implemented and complied with; and that there is a mechanism available for such an implementation, which is Resolution 426.

Libyan Envoy Handed 'Strongly Worded' Note on Remarks

NC1106125393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] A silent diplomatic crisis has developed between Lebanon and Libya because of the Lebanese official position on the Libyan pilgrims' visit to Jerusalem. Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan today summoned 'Ashur al-Furtas, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau, and handed him, according to our diplomatic correspondent, a strongly worded written note in response to a note al-Furtas handed to the Foreign Ministry at the beginning of this week.

Our correspondent says that the Lebanese note expresses Lebanon's displeasure with the Libyan position, which criticized Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz for their positions on the pilgrims' visit.

Al-Furtas did not wish to speak about the crisis. He only said that an exchange of views took place that will benefit the two fraternal countries.

Our correspondent Khalil Fulayhan at the Foreign Ministry reports on the latest development in this crisis:

[Begin Fulayhan recording] The latest development is a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry. The text of this statement follows: Following the recent news conference held by the ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Beirut on the issue of the visit of the Libyan pilgrims to occupied Jerusalem and the positions and statements made in connection with the visit, the Foreign Ministry summoned on Friday, 11 June 1993, the Jamahiriyah ambassador and indicated to him that the news conference and the ambassador's statements are inconsistent with the accepted diplomatic treaties and norms. [end recording]

SLA Soldier Killed, 7 Bombs Defused in Bayt Yahun

TA1106053593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] A SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was killed last night by a large explosive charge near Bayt Yahun on the northern border of the security zone. The bomb went off as the SLA soldier was trying to defuse it. Lebanese sources told Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the north that another seven explosive charges were discovered in the area, totalling some 100 kg of TNT. They were defused without incident. Bayt Yahun was the site of artillery exchanges yesterday between terrorists, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the SLA.

IDF Kills 2 'Terrorists' in Security Zone

TA1106082993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Two terrorists were killed last night in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the central sector of south Lebanon's security zone. There were no casualties on our side.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that at approximately 2400, a paratrooper unit encountered a terrorist squad and two terrorists were

killed in the ensuing fire exchange. Their bodies were discovered this morning. As noted earlier, there were no Israeli casualties.

The IDF unit involved in the clash belongs to the paratrooper battalion which sustained several fatalities in south Lebanon a few weeks ago. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that following the incident, IDF artillery and tanks shelled terrorist targets near the villages of Majdal Silm, Bra'shit, and Shaqra.

The Voice of the South radio station reported that the dead terrorists belonged to Hizballah. Our radio monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Israeli gunships were dispatched to the site and fired at targets in the area.

Israeli Shelling in South Reported; Irish UN Positions Hit

NC1006195393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces continued their attacks against the liberated towns and villages in the south. They shelled Haddathah and Shaqra this afternoon. The shelling of Tibnin damaged the home of former deputy 'Abdallah al-'Udaymi and set fire to large areas of wheat fields in the area.

Sniper fire directed by the occupation forces from their positions in Rshaf hit two positions of the Irish UN contingent in the Tibnin area.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reported at 1930 today that the Israeli forces fired shells at 'Ayta al-Sha'b, damaging several houses. Among the householders are colleague 'Arafat Hijazi, 'Abdallah Murtada, and Najib Murtada. A fire broke out in Tibnin wheat fields, but a civil defense team brought it under control at 1730 today.

Further on Shelling

NC1106122993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Excerpts] In the south, Israel has continued its aggression since last night. Israeli helicopters took part in the shelling and more reinforcements were called into action. Majdal Silm, Qabriqa, Wadi al-Saluqi, Wadi al-Hujayr, al-Litani banks, Frun, al- Ghanduriyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under Israeli shelling today. More than 30 shells fell between Shaqra and Tulin. Enemy helicopters combed the above-mentioned areas. Enemy motorized units were seen moving toward the hills overlooking the occupied security strip. [passage omitted]

The resistance issued a statement saying that its groups attacked two positions of the occupation forces in Tallusah and Bani Hayyan at 0830 today. The resistance also shelled the positions held by occupation forces in al-Qantarah, Bani Hayyan, Tallusah, and Bayt Yahun. The statement notes that the resistance has repulsed an attempt by the enemy to advance in the direction of Wadi al-Saluqi.

Overflights, Clashes With Israelis, SLA Reported

NC1106062393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Islamic resistance sources told us a short time ago that fierce clashes are taking place between the Islamic Resistance and the Zionist enemy forces and its Lahdist agents [South Lebanese Army—SLA] in Tallusah and Bani Hayyan in the central sector. All types of machine guns, rockets and artillery are being used.

Helicopters are hovering over the area and raking Wadi al-Saluqi. Clouds of heavy smoke are seen in the area as a result of the enemy force's bombardment. The Resistance sources said the aim of the shelling is to cover the evacuation of the enemy's dead and wounded.

The enemy artillery is shelling the area surrounding Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, and Shaqra with tank guns.

Security Orders Narcotics Farmers To Destroy Plants

NC1006141093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] According to security sources, Lebanese and Syrian security forces addressed an ultimatum to farmers of narcotic plants to destroy them before next Tuesday or they will be pursued and arrested. These sources told REUTER that this ultimatum was given during a meeting of security commanders and the village chiefs of the Dayr al-Ahmar area.

In the latest campaign by Lebanese and Syrian forces to destroy banned plants, they destroyed 30 hectares of hashish plants in the al-Biqa' plain.

Paper Views Israeli Practices Prior to Next Round

JN1106101593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] The commentaries of AL-THAWRAH, the only paper published today since TISHRIN and AL-BA'TH are on holiday, discuss the 10th round of peace talks, which will be held next week in Washington, and Israel's moves to forestall this round by placing traps and obstacles on its path.

In a commentary entitled "Israeli Mines," AL-THAWRAH writes about the obstacles Israel is constantly placing on the path of the peace process. The paper asserts that as is the case before every round of talks, Israel is placing traps and mines before the 10th round to prevent it from achieving any progress that would strengthen hopes in the possibility of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region which ends the Israeli aggression and returns to the Arabs their usurped rights and lands.

The paper says: At a time when the Arabs are giving the peace process another chance—following the Amman coordination meeting—by confirming their participation in the process and adherence to international legitimacy as the only term of reference to that process and at a time when the U.S. Administration is reaffirming its commitment to the full and effective partner role in the peace talks, Israel is giving very negative signs.

The paper notes that recent statements by Rabin and his government officials confirm that the settlement Israel is seeking to achieve is no more than a partial solution aimed at maintaining its occupation of large parts of Arab territory and continuing to deny the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The paper adds: Rabin's support for the settlement-building policy reflects a position aimed at obstructing the peace process and preventing the 10th round from achieving any positive step. Rabin knows that peace runs contrary to settlement activities and that the settlement-building policy was, and remains, a subject of denunciation and criticism by the world and the U.S. Administration in particular, because this policy was a stumbling block in all rounds of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Middle East peace has its own equation that is based on a host of linked requirements and obligations, starting and ending with the implementation of the pertinent resolutions of international legitimacy, in both letter and spirit, to restore to the Arabs their occupied territories and end Israeli aggression.

Concluding its commentary, the paper urges the U.S. sponsor, which pledged to assume an effective role and give peace top priority, to shoulder its responsibility in full and fortify the peace process against Israeli gimmicks by forcing Israel to submit to international legitimacy, abandon illusions of expansion and aggression, respond fully to the peace process, and immediately accept peace requirements in full so that a just and comprehensive peace can be established in the region.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: While contacts continue and efforts intensify to prepare for the 10th round of peace talks after the Arab side gave the green light to resume that process and gave it another chance to escape the circle of marking time, the Israeli leaders are forestalling the Washington meeting by responding to the U.S. efforts and the Arabs' positive attitude with a return to the policy of setting off explosions and escalation, fabricating crises, and creating further problems and serious obstacles that threaten the peace process. These obstacles prevent it from making any progress toward its desired objective, which is to establish a just and comprehensive peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the UN Security Council.

The paper says this Israeli position did not come as a surprise. It says: It is nothing new for Israel to start escalating the military situation in the region and violating all international laws and norms before every round of talks.

AL-THAWRAH notes the constant Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, which has recently assumed a harsher form in terms of destruction and shelling. The paper also notes that Israel's continued oppression and systematic savage terror, which is continuing undeterred, will make it impossible to establish peace.

The paper adds: Israel's political maneuvers will make the 10th round end up like the previous ones unless the world community and the U.S. sponsor quickly rectify the situation and force the Israeli rulers to face the peace alternative, accept the framework of its terms of reference, and implement its resolutions, resolutions that require a complete and comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights.

Bangladesh

Budget for 1993-94 Presented in Parliament

BK1006164293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 93

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The national budget for 1993-94 presented to Parliament this afternoon shows a revenue surplus of 3,035 crore taka. The revenue income for the next fiscal year has been estimated at 12,335 crore taka, which is about 12 percent higher than the revised estimate for the current year. Of this, tax revenue is estimated at 10,035 crore taka, while non-tax revenue is estimated at 2,300 crore taka. Revenue expenditure for the next fiscal year is estimated at 9,300 crore taka, which is nine percent higher than the current year's revised estimates. The gross revenue surplus is estimated at 3,035 crore taka.

After adjusting the capital and (?food) account, net contribution to the ADP [annual development plan] in revenue budget is expected to be 2,800 crore taka. With the proposed outlay of 9,750 crore taka for the annual development plan, ADP, for 1993-94, the domestic resources contribution, including self-financing by the corporate sectors, has been estimated at 3,231 crore taka, which is one-third of the total outlay. This is against 2,130 crore taka, that is, 26.2 percent of the revised ADP of 8,121 crore taka, for outgoing 1992-93 fiscal year. This reflects the success of the present government in mobilizing domestic resources and its commitment to self-reliance in reducing dependence on external sources on a long- term basis.

In the revised budget for the outgoing fiscal year, revenue receipts have been estimated at 11,060 crore taka, while revenue expenditure is estimated at 8,510 crore taka. Out of the gross revenue surplus of 2,550 crore taka in the revised budget, an amount of 1,870 crore taka is now available for the revised ADP.

In his budget speech, which lasted about two hours, the finance minister, Saifur Rahman, said the estimates seek to lay the foundation of medium- to long-term sustainable economic growth that will lift the whole nation from the abyss of poverty. He said the welfare of the common man, the deprived, and the downtrodden will be at the core of the government's economic growth strategy.

He said GDP [gross domestic product] growth rate for 1992-93 has been initially estimated at around five percent, compared to 4 percent last year. Our medium-term strategy is to achieve acceleration of GDP growth rate to around 13 percent per annum starting with six percent for 1993-94 to double our GDP at the end of the decade. Mr. Saifur Rahman said that this will call for among other things the significant increase in the rate of investment from 13 percent of GDP in 1992-93 to 80 percent over the years.

The finance minister said the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] government's two years was too short a time to rectify the awful mess which it inherited from the autocratic regime. The government under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia, however, took courageous steps, in the short span of time undertook reforms in the fiscal and development sectors, including enlargement of the private sector, and establishment of a [word indistinct] government.

The finance minister said that the allocation of 3,727 crore taka has been provided to the education sector in which 1,824 crore taka has been provided from the revenue budget. The present fund available for primary education is 1,303 crore taka, which is 48 percent of all funds allocated to the education.

Two thousand one hundred and sixty-five crore taka, or 22 percent of the ADP, has been allocated to agriculture, water, and rural institutions sector as against 1,945 crore taka for this sector in the outgoing fiscal year.

Amidst applause, the finance minister announced that remittances by Bangladesh wages earners in the outgoing fiscal year may go up to about 100 crore U.S. dollars. He said the government has pursued and (?set) even flexible exchange rate policy designed to ensure medium-term viability of the balance of payments, while supporting progressive liberalization of trade and (?commerce). The finance minister said full convertibility of Bangladesh taka on trade accounts is under active consideration of the government with a view to further deregulating the exchange controls. Mr. Saifur Rahman said the cherished goal of poverty reduction and sustainable high economic growth cannot be obtained unless restrictions on economic activities are done away with and the (?latent) enterprises and entrepreneurship of people are allowed free accession.

The finance minister then introduced the finance bill 1993 which seeks to give effect to the fiscal proposals of the government and the relevant laws. Giving a broad outline of the new fiscal measures for the 1993-94 financial year, the finance minister said these are aimed at infusing new blood into the national economy and accelerating the pace of development in all important national sectors. He said these are inevitable outcome of far-reaching and bold economic reforms initiated by the present government. During the last two years, the government has been continuously reforming the tax system on the basis of well-defined policies and adjustment of rate of direct taxes. Duties have been gradually reduced on raw and immediate products, and bureaucratic as well as [word indistinct] restrictions on imports have been significantly brought down.

Mr. Saifur Rahman said the new tax proposals have been prepared in consultation with representatives of trade and industrial sectors, experts as well as members of four standing committees of the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] with a view to achieving transparency and accountability. He said the total estimated tax revenue for the coming financial year stands at 10,035 crore taka. In the new budget, only about 54 crore taka, including about 20 crore taka to be paid by the government on wheat

import, will be generated from the fresh tax measures. On the other hand, the new budget will cause a revenue loss of 382 crore taka.

Speaking about the reforms in respect of income tax structure, the finance minister said these will help reduce red tape, eliminate complexities of existing laws and strengthen as well as restructure the tax administration. The proposed reforms will stimulate production and economic activities, encourage savings, and increase investments. The finance minister proposed to raise the limit for income tax to 50,000 taka from the present limit of 40,000 taka. Last year, the highest income tax for certain companies was 55 percent. In the present budget, the finance minister proposed to lower the rate to 50 percent. In case of all other companies, the highest rate will be 40 percent. The finance minister proposed a few more reliefs for individual assessees. The allowable limit of house rent for salaried employees is proposed to be doubled from 2,500 taka to 5,000 taka. He said the allowable depreciation limit for motorcars which were not rented is proposed to be raised from 5 lakh to 7.5 lakh taka. The compensation paid to surplus employees of government and semi government organizations who will voluntarily retire will be exempted from income tax. About garment exporters, the finance minister proposed amendments to income tax law so that unearned income by them may be taxed.

In his budget speech, the finance minister proposed to raise the income tax for minibus from 1,000 taka to 1,250 taka and income tax for 52-seater bus from 2,000 taka to 2,500 taka. The rate is proposed to be similarly adjusted for trucks and lorries.

About capital gains, the finance minister proposed that it will be computed on the basis of market price of the property at the time the current owner inherited it.

The finance minister proposed to reduce the rates of duty on no less than 2,870 items of import in the next financial year. At present, there are prescribed rates for duties on about 12,800 items of import. He said we have proposed to reduce the rates of duties on almost every type of wealth, starting from agricultural pumps to kidney dialysis machine, from raw materials to finished goods. The existing exemption of duty on raw materials for antibiotics will be maintained but minimum duty of 7.5 percent on fininshed antibiotics will be imposed. Imported goods will be liable to pay a minimum duty of 7.5 percent. Publications such as newspapers, periodicals, maps and globes will however remain free of import duty. The finance minister proposed the increase of duty for revenue stamps to four taka. Rates for bonds, including customs bonds, are proposed to be adjusted keeping in view administrative expenses as well as import value of goods. Tax on taxi cabs capable of carrying four passengers from 1,000 taka to 1,400 taka. [sentence as heard] Proportionate increase has been proposed in case of private taxis, buses, and lorries.

About foreign travel tax, the finance minister proposed to increase it by 50 taka on all journeys abroad. He said the value- added tax, VAT, which was introduced on 1 July 1991 has yielded positive results.

Our parliamentary representative says Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, ministers, and members from all parties were present in the house during the presentation of the budget. The galleries were jampacked with distinguished guests, including diplomats and journalists. The house will meet again at 1000 on Sunday morning.

India

U.S. 'Intent To Meddle' in Kashmir Viewed

BK1106070593 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 3 Jun 93 p 13

[By Maharajkrishna Rasgotra]

[Text] The United States of America is a wonderful country of people of great energy and industry, goodness of heart, friendship and sincerity. Success often inclines people to be self-righteous and preachy, and perfectly good Americans can sometimes be quite overbearing and demanding. In particular, junior American officials, who would pass unnoticed in Bonn, Brussels or Rome, like to play god in Asian capitals.

In his recent visit to Delhi Mr. John Malott, equivalent of a Director in the Indian Government, excelled in the role. He has said on return to Washington that he was in Delhi to convey a message. In fact, he delivered an ultimatum and surrounded the delivery with a good deal of theatre. The crux of it all was: you Indians do not know how to manage your affairs; do as we direct, or else! In passing, he mentioned aid cut-off and sanctions.

Perhaps, Mr. Malott was only testing the ground for a reshaping of Washington's India policy. Or, the policy has already been made and he was sent here to fling it at us, with much ginger and salt added to an already pungent potion. In either case, these first intimations of a change of policy in Washington ought to be taken seriously. They reveal an intent to meddle, once again, in Kashmir, an issue central to India's secular polity, her unity and integrity and crucial to the national status and well-being of 100 million Indian Muslims. A mistaken, interventionist U.S. policy could give rise to a long era of bloodshed and turbulence in our region.

In the messenger's wake, intimations of a sinister design in Kashmir have emanated also from other sources in our capital. Some American officials have aired the view, in New Delhi and in Srinagar, that they have much in mind the possibility of Kashmir's independence as a viable solution to the problem!

All this calls for the reiteration of a firm and united Indian response to nip the mischief in the bud. A resolute and unanimous re-affirmation of India's position on Kashmir by the Indian Parliament would be the best way to do it. Lately our political system has given the impression of being irretrievably lost in factionalism,

division and dissent. The world should know that on Kashmir, at least, the entire country is of one clear, firm and united view.

There is some talk of a Prime Ministerial visit to Washington D.C. That capital is currently in the grip of transitional confusion, and such a visit could easily await a more propitious time. At any rate, the Prime Minister would be well-advised to ensure that India's viewpoint on Kashmir is made unmistakably clear to Washington before-hand. Otherwise, he would be subjected to unacceptable pressures and personal embarrassment, and relations, instead of improving, would be set back several years.

In considering our response to Mr. Malott's mission, America's record in relation to the Kashmir question should be borne in mind. From 1948 to 1953: Casting doubts on the validity of Kashmir's accession and full cooperation with Pakistan in the Security Council to divert attention from the basic question of Pakistan's aggression. In 1953 flirtation with the idea of an independent J&K [Jammu and Kashmir]. In 1954: military alliance with and military aid to Pakistan to bring about an Indo-Pak military balance. In 1952-56, attempts in the Security Council and elsewhere to secure a mediatory role in Kashmir. In 1963-65, support for the idea of Indo-Pakistan joint control over Kashmir or partitioning of the Valley to give Pakistan access to it. From 1972 onwards, acquiescence in the Simla Agreement and support for bilateral talks to resolve the question.

Mr. Malott said to a New Delhi audience that the Kashmir problem could no longer be left to be resolved bilaterally by India and Pakistan; he insisted that there is a third party, the people of Kashmir. He asserted that the whole of Jammu & Kashmir, on both sides of the Line of Control, is disputed territory. Pronouncements of this kind had not been heard from Washington since 1972. Even during the Bangladesh war in December 1971, Americans were saying that our troops must respect both the Ceasefire Line in J&K and the international border in Punjab—all in the same breath!

If these recent American declarations are any guide, the Clinton administration would appear to be seeking a mediatory role in Kashmir, but unlike in the fiftees, as a champion and protector not of Pakistan but of the people of Kashmir. It is 1953 all over again!

The Indian Government and the media were naive in looking to Washington for condemning Pakistan as a terrorist State. Why would America antagonise Pakistan for Indian reasons? Or pressurise Pakistan to end its proxy war to save Kashmir for India? Nations have to fight their own battles. We invited a rebuff, and now we have also to fight off an unwarranted intrusion in our affairs.

Kashmir apart, what we have to contend with is the resumption in Washington of the Nixon-Kissinger diplomacy of threat and pressure. Something seems to have gone wrong with America's perceptions of Asia since the end of the cold war, more markedly since the Gulf war. From Iran in the South-West to Japan in the North-East, virtually all Asian countries are under American threat or pressure of one or another kind. And yet for peace and stability, security and the protection of its own strategic and other interests, even for its trade and prosperity, America needs Asia at least as much as Asia needs America.

In the long term an Asian coming together would be the best antidote to such pressures. It is time China or Japan or Iran or India made a move to start the process. In the meantime, India will simply have to stand up to any affront and convince anyone, who still needs convincing that she will defend her national integrity, independence and honour with whatever it takes.

Americans seem determined to embarrass India, through international propaganda by agencies such as Amnesty International and Asia Watch on the question of alleged human rights violations in Kashmir. This is a gross insult to our democracy. Mr. Malott went to the extent of threatening that American dissatisfaction over the human rights issue could spill over into other aspects of Indo-US relationship—trade, investments, aid, World Bank and IMF loans, etc.

These are empty threats, disproved by the continuing expansion in America's economic relations with China and a number of other countries. Economic exchanges between countries are not conducted for love: their stimulus is the scent of profit.

What is particularly offensive and objectionable is that a democracy of 220 million people should choose to transgress into an area of the domestic responsibility of another democracy of 880 million people. The human rights issue is a bogus one, stirred up to dishonour and demoralise our Armed Forces, to cause estrangement between them and the people for whose security they are responsible, and to serve as a pretext for intervention for reasons which have little to do with the Kashmiri people's well-being.

The concepts of man's supremacy, human values and human rights were first defined in this Asian land centuries before the West awoke to them. For centuries, Western humanism manifested itself in Asia as colonial barbarism. Is America going to embark on a new mission of civilising Asia?

Our societies are engaged in the process of correcting the deviations stratified into their living ethic by history, while at the same time contending with a whole host of disruptive forces. In India, certainly, we are not unaware of the importance of human rights; and while there are violations and neglect, there is always also the anguish and the endeavour, in lawful and democratic ways, to set things right.

We became free only in 1947. Let any country's record of promoting and protecting human rights over a period of 46 years, from any stretch of its history, be set against India's for the world's scrutiny.

India has her troubles and shortcomings, but she is a democracy, vibrant, open and obstreperous like the American democracy. Nothing is hidden here. Fair criticism should be welcome to the Indian democracy from any quarter, especially from another democracy; but if their friendship is to grow, the ensuing discourse of threat and dictation between them will have to cease.

Iran

Further Reportage, Commentary on Presidential Race

Polls Predict High Turnout

LD1006183393 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 10 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA—Five opinion polls conducted in Tehran recently show that 94.1 percent of qualified voters will participate in the 6th presidential elections scheduled for June 11.

According to the polls, conducted by IRNA, of 10 voters, nine will vote in favor of one of the four candidates and the remaining one in favor of the other three. Between 85 and 94.1 percent of those questioned said they will participate in the presidential elections. The incumbent President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, chancellor of the Islamic Open University 'Abdollah Jasbi, editor in chief of Persian daily RESALAT Ahmad Tavakkoli and Majles deputy Rajabali Taheri are candidates in this round of presidential elections.

The opinion poll also showed that most voters considered popularity, ability to tackle economic problems and commitment to Islam as the three main factors in choosing one candidate over the others.

In the first poll conducted on May 24, 86.8 percent of people questioned said they will take part in the elections and 13.2 percent said they would not cast votes. The second poll of May 27, put the number of people willing to participate in the elections at 90.2 and the figure rose to 90.5 percent in the third survey conducted on May 29. The fourth and fifth polls of June 2 and June 8, put the number of eligible voters willing to cast votes at 85.9 and 94.1 percent respectively. In all opinion polls, some 2,000 eligible voters were questioned at random.

Earlier on May 24, a presidential headquarters set up at IRNA organized a debate between Jasbi, Taheri and Tavakkoli.

Khamene'i Urges People To Vote

LD1106052993 Tehran IRNA in English 0518 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i cast his vote for his favorite presidential candidate at Imam Khomeyni's Hoseyniyeh at 08:45 hours local time (04:15 GMT) this morning.

Speaking after the voting, the leader expressed hope that it will mark an "auspicious beginning" for the Iranian people. The supreme leader urged the people to take the elections seriously under "the present crucial juncture" and show no negligence in fulfilling this important task.

He said in Iran, contrary to what is practised in the so-called democratic countries, there is no power struggle and misleading propaganda. "Our people will elect a person who will serve the country, the people and the revolution, with prior knowledge about him," he said.

There were tens of foreign reporters and photographers present at the place where the leader cast his vote.

Voting Begins

LD1106063293 Tehran IRNA in English 0617 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—The interior minister announced inauguration of the 6th presidential elections of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 8:00 hours local time Friday [11 June] throughout Iran and at Iranian diplomatic missions abroad.

The voting is initially set to last 10 hours but may be extended upon the interior minister's decision.

Millions of Iranian Muslims are expected to turn out at the elections as they did in previous ones to turn another golden page in the history of the Islamic Republic.

Various groups, organizations, associations, dignitaries and religious minorities have announced readiness to take part in the elections.

A total of 27,013 polling boxes are stalled throughout the country and 200 others at diplomatic missions abroad.

Meanwhile, some 75,000 Iranian Hajj pilgrims who have not yet returned home from Saudi Arabia may cast their ballots in 53 polling boxes stalled in Mecca, Medina, Jeddah and Iran's consulate in Riyadh.

More than 29 million Iranians of above 15 years old are eligible to vote.

Simultaneously, parliamentary by-elections are being held in nine constituencies to elect nine deputies.

The presidential elections results, to be counted by computers for the first time, are expected to be announced within 36 hours after the end of the elections.

According to the interior minister who is in charge of holding the elections, the presidential decree would be conferred to the president-elect on August 3 by leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. After swearing-in ceremony at the Majles, the new president will introduce his cabinet.

Leaders Vote, Comment

LD1106091493 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, himself a presidential candidate, cast his vote this morning.

Scores of foreign journalists, photographers and cameramen as well as many domestic journalists were present at the time of the voting.

Speaking to them, President Rafsanjani said the people's participation in the elections was the best example of their presence at all scenes. He said the people had turned out massively in the various elections held since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"Our people decide for themselves in the elections and are not influenced by insinuations," he noted.

Asked by a foreign journalist on his future policies if he is re- elected, Rafsanjani said he will continue with his previous plans. "The presence of the people in the elections is important for the government because their vote will in fact reveal the extent to which they agree with the government's five-year plan."

Meanwhile, the late leader of the Islamic revolution's son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni cast his vote in the mobile box at Jamaran early today.

"Today is a decisive day for our people," he said after voting. "Today the dear Iranian people will prove once again with their presence at the polling booths that they will continue to neutralize the propaganda ploys of the western media."

He noted that the late imam always urged the nation to actively participate in the elections.

In the holy city of Qom, Ayatollah Hoseynali Montazeri, cast his vote this morning.

In related news, First Vice-President Hassan Habibi accompanied by the Interior Minister Abdallah Nuri, inspected the elections headquarters at the Interior Ministry this morning.

Some 100 representatives of various organizations and institutions are present at the headquaters.

After casting his vote, Habibi said participation in the elections was the "greatest human and social right of our people" and that the presidential elections enjoyed special importance.

Speaking to reporters after casting ballot, the interior minister underlined the need for the all-out participation of the Iranian nation in the presidential elections.

He said "today all the Iranians will accomplish their social obligation through their presence at polling booths."

Nuri attached special significance to presidential elections compared to parliamentary elections because, he said, the president's election was not confined to a certain region, religion or sect and that it was held in a unified form throughout the country.

Referring to the current tensions prevailing throughout the world, he said "We inside the Islamic Republic enjoy national unity and a special order and compared to the difficulties that other countries are faced with, we don't have any significant problem."

Among other dignitaries casting vote this morning for the 6th presidential elections was President of the Experts Assembly Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini who cast his ballot in the holy city of Qom.

He wished success for the expressed-to-be [as received] and hoped that he would be able to serve the interests of the nation and employ all the existing potentials of Islamic Iran and administer the country in the best possible way.

Also representative of the leader and head of the hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri cast his vote in Qom early today.

He said that the unified presence of the nation at polling booths proves that they continue to tread the late Imam Khomeyni's path and are obeying the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

"The massive presence of the nation, 14 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution proves that the people have maintained their revolutionary fervor and vigilance," Reyshahri underlined.

Judiciary Chief on Voting

LD1106103693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Friday prayers sermons were performed throughout the country at the same time as the sixth presidential elections. In his Friday prayers sermons to the masses of worshippers, Tehran's interim Friday prayers leader Ayatollah [Mohammad 'Ali] Yazdi remarked on the people's large-scale presence at the ballot boxes to participate in the elections. He described the elections as an issue of vital importance to the country. He said:

To elect a president is to elect the country's second man. And, contrary to the propaganda launched by the world of arrogance, the elections are taking place in a totally free and healthy climate. In electing a president of their choice the people will determine the destiny of their country.

Elsewhere in his remarks Ayatollah Yazdi thanked the people for their unprecedented participation in the ceremonies marking the fourth anniversary of the death of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise.

'Ridiculous' Acts of Mojahedin Had 'No Impact'

LD1006163493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Excerpts] In an interview with domestic and foreign reporters this afternoon, Interior Minister Nuri replied

to questions concerning the sixth presidential elections as well as the forthcoming Majles mid-term elections. [passage omitted]

Mr. Nuri replied to questions about the impact of the intrusive actions of the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] on the election's security. He strongly dismissed any impact, and said: The Monafeqin, by carrying out a few minor acts—which were executed in a very ridiculous manner—were hoping to show the foreign media that they are still in existence. Such acts have had absolutely no impact inside the country.

Minister on Counterrevolutionary Operations

LD1006115093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Dear listeners, as we informed you earlier in the bulletin, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahiyan-Khuzestani, the minister of intelligence and security, in a news conference, elaborated on the methods used in confronting Iraqi spies who have been planting bombs and perpetrating acts of sabotage, and also operations carried out by agents of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq organization] mini-group in our country, during recent months.

Responding to our correspondent's question on the most important steps taken by the ministry toward establishment of security in the country, and also regarding recent security issues, he said:

[Begin recording] [Fallahiyan-Khuzestani] To establish security in connection with confronting counterrevolutionary mini-groups and espionage networks, the Ministry of Intelligence has been carrying out a series of constructive operations. Praise be to God, thanks to efforts of the unknown soldiers of the Lord of the Age, may God's blessing be upon him, it has achieved remarkable success in establishing security in our Islamic society, during this period.

As you are aware, we are targeted by all networks who are in one way or another confronting us, and who harbor mischievous plans for our country.

One of the issues that has recently taken place concerns the Iraqis, who in spite of our goodwill with regard to implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598, have been engaged in dispatching teams to our country via our southern border, to carry out acts of sabotage. In that connection, they have mobilized and dispatched 16 individuals to our country in the form of five teams. One of those teams attempted to set ablaze one of our oil wells around Ahvaz. But thanks be to God, and the efforts of the oil experts and faithful workers, the blaze was put out. During that incident, one of them was killed, several were injured, and the majority of them were arrested.

Iraq's efforts in that respect were unsuccessful, since our efforts succeeded in uncovering around 60 bombs and seizing 11 rifles, a large number of fuses, detonators, explosives, and so on. Having become dismayed in that connection, they embarked on using Monafeqin agents, assuming that they had a better knowledge of our country's interior. The Mojahedin-e Khalq, in turn, embarked on mobilizing and dispatching three teams to our country.

Unfortunately one of their operations involved an attack on a telecommunication post in (Komekon) heights in Kermanshah Province, that resulted in the martyrdom of a 60-year-old porter.

Another of their operations was on the Mehran-Dehloran road. They attacked farmers and stole a van and killed four local residents, including a 70-year-old man. Our regional intelligence brothers, aided by Basij brothers, pursued them. All of them were killed during a brave operation.

Another team they sent inside the country was a team assigned to bomb oil pipelines. Of course, the pipeline did not contain any oil. It was behind Abadan's Bahmanshir bridge, and had been taken out of circulation due to war damage. In this connection one of the Mojahedin was killed and another was arrested.

The last team consisted of four persons who tried to attack one of the positions of our Basij brothers and entrap them. In that too they were unsuccessful and were trapped and killed themselves.

Following the steps Iraq took, counterrevolution assembly points on the border strip were identified and bombed thanks to the efforts of the fast-flying air force planes. The bombings achieved good results. According to preliminary information we have so far received, 97 Mojahedin were killed and 116 were wounded, about 40 of whom have since died. We have achieved great success in crushing them.

We believe that the people's awareness and presence on the scene and their cooperation with the intelligence apparatus has enabled us to maintain security better everyday.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Fallahiyan, please tell us about the bombing at the shrine of his holiness the imam last Mehr [September 1992]. Were the perpetrators arrested?

[Fallahiyan-Khuzestani] Yes. The perpetrator was one person who was arrested thanks to the efforts of our brothers after he had committed the act. What he had done was place a bomb in a bucket in the courtyard outside the shrine and another bomb inside a copy of the Koran, which did not cause any major damage. That person was arrested and punished.

[Correspondent] Which group did the bombers of the shrine belong to?

[Fallahiyan-Khuzestani] The Hypocrites [Mojahedin]. [end recording]

Iraq Making 'Ugly Acts' To Disrupt Elections

NC1006121593 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 25 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Foul Play"]

[Text] As the June 11 presidential elections approach, we witness some desperate, albeit feeble attempts to disrupt the nation's peace and tranquility through ugly acts of terrorism and sabotage by enemies of the Islamic Republic.

For some time now, the Baghdad regime has been aiding and abetting enemies of Iran operating from its side of the border, obviously with the evil intent of creating disturbances on the eve of two major events—the June 11 polls to the presidency and prior to this, the fourth anniversary of the passing away of Imam Khomeyni which falls on June 4.

A large number of foreign guests are expected to attend the death anniversary of the late Imam, as also members of the foreign press corps who are welcome to cover the two important events.

If counterrevolutionary elements believe they can overshadow these events to their advantage, they should think otherwise. Because the heavy crackdown on these renegades by the alert Iranian revolutionary forces, have led to many of them surrendering, and others are in the pipeline.

Saddam Husayn's tactics are constantly changing. If he is not violating international borders, he is turning the guns on his own people. The latest action of allowing the counterrevolutionaries to launch crossborder raids, represents not only a flagrant violation of the Aug. 20, 1988 ceasefire agreement, but also shows how wrong Saddam is. By engineering a border crisis, Saddam is trying once again to divert the attention of the Iraqi people from the hardships of economic sanctions and internal repression.

Saddam may not pose a threat in the region. Western allies took care to dismantle his war machine. Despite this he continues to transgress, and in the light of this he would be well-advised not to underestimate Iran's defense capabilities. After all, Baghdad's misguided moves will have adverse effects on any process to return security and long-awaited stability to the Iraqi nation.

'Domination-Seeking Interests' of U.S. Faulted

LD1006212793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to international news agencies, yesterday, 9th of June, the American secretary of state, Warren Christopher, in his consultative session with the foreign ministers of the EC member states, called on them to impose new economic sanctions against Iran in order to further pressurize the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. Christopher, who had met with the foreign ministers of 12 EC member states—concerning means and ways of bringing an end to the war in Bosnia—in Luxembourg, on his way to Greece, in an unpredicted measure, instead of mooting the significant issues related to Bosnia-Herzegovina, accused Iran of being equipped with chemical and biological weapons. He did this in order to divert the Serbs' crimes and in this manner, Christopher changed the current of yesterday's consultations totally.

Of course this is not for the first time that the United States moots baseless and feigned accusations so as to convince its European allies to embark in imposing new sanctions against the IRI. In the past too Washington has in many occasions announced that Iran intends to produce chemical and nuclear weapons. So how can such an accusation be made when the secretary general of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency], Mr. Hans Blix, has, on a number of occasions—the last one of which was two weeks ago—announced that the IRI produces no obstacles for the inspection of its nuclear installations, by the agency inspectors, which are deployed for peaceful purposes? Besides that the overall defensive budget of the IRI includes only one percent of the country's national product and this is the lowest compared to other countries of the region.

However, because of Iran's independent stand against Washington's domination-seeking postures and policies, the American officials moot such accusations once in a while so that perhaps they can coordinate the European states with themselves. But in reality the majority of European states who have close relations with the IRI are precisely aware of the application of these states' industrial products inside Iran. And basically in the contemporary world deployment of such products and any deals with them cannot be hidden from anyone. Especially under the present conditions, when Iran is undergoing the reconstruction period following the eight-year-long war, attention to rebuilding of Iran's defensive power is a necessity and something natural.

The foreign ministers of European states are aware that in case Iran chose flexibility in the face of the United States' expansionist policies, certainly the United States will exceed its rivals, namely Germany and Japan, in dispatching technical equipment for the economic reconstruction of Iran. But under the present conditions when Iran has adopted an independent policy and prefers to refer to free market to meet its needs, instead of giving up to the bullying of the White House, Mr. Clinton's administration finds itself practically helpless in the face of this policy. Therefore yesterday's statement of Mr. Christopher addressed to the foreign ministers of the 12 EC member states is justifiable to the United States' European allies, but whether the EC member states will agree to review their relations with Tehran just for the sake of the domination-seeking interests of the U.S. is something that past experiences show to be contrary.

However in the event these countries follow the policies of Washington, the early eighties period will be repeated

and in that case the IRI will manage to continue reconstruction of its industries utilizing its huge local potentials and possibilities.

Christopher Criticized Over Remarks on Isolation

U.S. Effort 'Ill-Fated'

NC1006204993 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 2 Jun 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Egg on Christopher's Face"]

[Text] Remarks by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last Friday on "isolating" the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena is another ill-fated attempt to damage the image of the Islamic Iran. Mr. Christopher also said that Washington is trying to persuade its allies to follow suit against Tehran. While Iran has been improving ties with all countries which do not exercise a hostile attitude towards it, a senior U.S. government official has misread the wind and called for the isolation of Iran.

After 14 years of an economic embargo against Tehran, Washington has not been able to undermine the Islamic regime. In fact, since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the revolution has become more popular not only inside Iran but in many other countries as well.

During the past four years many industrialized and developing countries have expanded their political, economic and cultural cooperation with Iran. This should be evident in the number of state visits by various senior officials of different countries to Tehran, as well as by those of Iran to other states' capitals.

As an important country in the Middle East as well as the Persian Gulf region, Iran is daily gaining credibility in the world. This is the result of a combination of political stability, economic potential and geopolitical location.

Many developed countries are engaged in the implementation of multi-billion dollar infrastructural projects in Iran. For instance different Italian, German, French, Austrian, Russian, Swedish, Dutch, Brazilian, Spanish and Japanese companies are completing projects in this country.

On May 29th Japan extended the first phase of a loan, some $385m, for construction of the Karun River Project Dam #4. Obviously Tokyo does not consider Mr. Christopher's advice well grounded.

The above mentioned countries will not jeopardize their relations with Iran based on accusations by an obviously floundering U.S. Administration. Japan and United Europe will not be yes-men in the hands of Washington for its political ambitions in the developing world. America must know that it cannot become the world's leviathan by merely exercising hostility attitude and inviting others to follow suit.

While Iran on several occasions has shown its goodwill to Washington—like using its influence to free the Western, including the American hostages in Lebanon—the American politicians have not only taken any step to improve ties such as releasing the frozen Iranian assets, but they have even done whatever they could to damage Iran's prestige and credibility, worldwide.

Iran is not a country to be isolated with a call by an American official who is proving so inept on other fronts. The free countries of the world will not all of a sudden cut and forget their mutual ties with Tehran. Following the downfall of the Soviet communism and the emergence of the so-called new world order, the U.S. has wanted to expand the scope of its international hegemony. However, it is increasingly unlikely the world community will obey Washington's orders.

This new U.S. attempt against Iran will fail. What Mr. Christopher said last Friday will ultimately become egg on his face. But should we expect a rational approach towards Iran from a man who the Islamic Revolution put out of a job 14 years ago?

U.S. Accused of Supporting MKO

NC1106033093 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Jun 93 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Runs Out of Resources!"]

[Text] Warren Christopher said on Friday that Iran deserved to be isolated on the international scene, and that the U.S. is trying to persuade its allies to pursue that policy.

Christopher also declared that Washington would attempt to create restrictions for the commercial relations between Iran and the European countries.

America's blatant animosity with the Islamic Republic since its inception in February 1979 is an indisputable fact. America never forgave Iran for having gained independence, and during the past 14 years Washington used all of its resources to strike at Iran.

For the moment the U.S. is facing the problem of finding new means of striking at Iran, for the old weapons have proved to be inefficacious. For instance, it is no longer possible to show the green light to Iran's neighbors to attack Iran—a device the U.S. used when it provoked Iraq to attack Iran in September 1980. None of Iran's neighbors is prepared to face a fate similar to that of Saddam Husayn.

So now the Democrats are trying to fight Iran with two of the most hackneyed tools.

One of these devices is the weapon of the human rights as it is interpreted by the Western countries. On this device the U.S. is facing really serious problems. America's European allies believe that if the subject of the human rights in Iran is to be considered from the West's point of view then obviously something has to be done about the Saudi Arabia where the standards of freedom and the human rights are not acceptable by any known criterion. How is it to be condoned that the ordinary

citizen in Saudi Arabia does not enjoy any political or civil rights. The Americans are really at a loss about how to respond to such objections raised by the Europeans.

The second old weapon used by the U.S. is the charges of terrorism. This has also proved to be an ineffective tool, for it has now been proved to the world that America itself is the greatest training center for international terrorism under the aegis of the CIA. Their most recent terrorist adventure occurred only a few days ago.

According to the confessions by the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] terrorist members who have been captured while they were planting a bomb in southern Iran, in the past two months the American forces in the Persian Gulf had meetings with the MKO leaders, and have put at their disposal the necessary guidance and information on centers in Iran where bombs could be planted. The Americans even provided the terrorists with food supplies to last them for 15 days.

Thus it would seem to be quite fair to ask the question: Who supports the terrorists?

Rebel Radio Views Tripartite Meeting in Tehran

NC1006160093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Sympathizing With Iraq or Plotting Against the Kurdish People?"]

[Text] News agencies reported that on 7 June the foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran, and Syria met in Tehran to discuss the situation in Iraq and in Iraqi Kurdistan. But this is not the three foreign ministers' first such meeting. On 14 November 1992, they met in Ankara to discuss the same issues and in February 1993, they met in Damascus for the same purpose. So the Tehran meeting was their third on Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan.

At each meeting, they express their apparent concern over the dismemberment of Iraq, yet they have not allowed the Iraqi Government or representatives of the Iraqi opposition or Kurdish movement in Iraqi Kurdistan to participate in these meetings.

Apparently, the three's objective is to achieve a common stance on the possible dismemberment of Iraq. These three countries have long paid lip service to Iraq's integrity and shed crocodile tears for Iraq without any proof of its dismemberment and without anyone propounding the issue. This when both Turkey and Iran each covet part of Iraqi territory, while Syria too has a history of overt hostility against Iraq.

The truth is something else and the cause of these three countries' concern and fear is not the threat of Iraq's dismemberment, but the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and the evolution of the justice-seeking struggles by the Kurdish people elsewhere in Kurdistan.

Turkey, Syria, and Iran see no expansion of nationalistic thought or increase in national feeling among the Kurds in these three countries (?stemming) from the evolution of democracy or the Kurdish people's nationalistic feelings in these three countries. They think the reality stems from the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. So, the Kurdish problem in general and the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan in particular have become a common problem for the three countries.

Iran, Turkey, and Syria each rule part of Kurdistan and the Kurdish people in every area of Kurdistan are struggling for their national rights. Fulfilling the Kurdish people's wants anywhere in Kurdistan is not in the interests of any of the three, each of which dominates a part of Kurdistan. Behind the crocodile tears one can see the worried and fearful eyes of all three over the Kurdish problem.

The Islamic Republic, which for 13 years has suppressed the people of Kordestan in their desire for autonomy, cannot be happy about the situation of the Iraqi Kurds. This regime's provocations and plots against the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan during the past two years, its aggression against border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan, its violation of the area's airspace, and its shelling of reconstructed villages in the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan are all clear proof of this reality.

Iran has a bone to pick with Turkey because it let the United States and its allies use its military bases to protect the Iraqi Kurds. The Turkish Government, which denied the existence of millions of Kurds in eastern Turkey for many years, has taken no serious step to fulfill the national rights of the Kurds in Turkey, even though domestic problems and pressures from its Western allies forced it to admit the existence of Kurds in Turkey. Although the Kurdish people in Turkey recently expressed their readiness for a peaceful solution of the Kurdish problem and talks with the Turkish authority, Turkey remains determined to continue its illogical policies on the Turkish Kurds. This is a factor for more pressure (?on it).

Not only has Syria refused to admit the national rights of the Kurds, but it is also trying to destroy their national identity and has constantly resorted to a violent policy against the Kurds.

The long-standing hostility of Iran, Turkey, and Syria against the Kurdish people elsewhere in Kurdistan leaves no room for doubt that the meetings in Ankara, Damascus, and Tehran were mostly geared to studying ways to confront the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and to choosing ways to firmly suppress the Kurdish people elsewhere in Kurdistan rather then being exchanges of views on the general situation in Iraq.

Although global conditions have changed and the attention paid to the Kurdish people has increased and these factors reduce the possibility of a common plot against the movement of Kurds in Kurdistan to some extent, the Kurds have the right to feel concerned about the secret plots being hatched by these three countries against them, especially when it seems these meetings and plots will continue. Of course, it should also be noted that the United States and its allies have been expressing their concern over these meetings for some time.

There is no doubt that any common step by these three countries to suppress the Kurdish people will get a reaction

from the Kurds, the world, and the friends of the Kurdish people. Hasn't the time come for the countries ruling Kurdistan to find a peaceful and just solution instead of plotting against the justice-seeking movement of the Kurdish people?

Mojahedin-e Khalq Claims Attack on Oil Refinery

NC1106105993 Paris AFP in English 1038 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Nicosia, June 11 (AFP)—Iranian rebels blew up installations Friday [11 June] at a huge oil refinery in the western city of Abadan and killed or wounded dozens of revolutionary guards, the People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] opposition group said.

Guerrillas set off a series of 16 explosions at the refinery, one of the biggest in the world, and attacked two battalions of the guards, a statement said.

The strikes coincided with the presidential election which the group has called on Iranians to boycott.

The Iranian Government cut off Abadan's telephone links with the outside world following the attack, the statement said.

The blasts "demolished" installations in the western section of the refinery and were heard through Abadan, which lies near the Iraqi border.

Rebels carried out a series of other attacks, killing or wounding more than 100 members of the Iranian security forces, the organisation said.

Pakistan

Indian Troops Fire Rockets Toward Azad Kashmir

BK1006140693 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 10 Jun 93 p 8

[By JANG correspondent]

[Text] Matayan Bala—Indian forces have been increasing their activities and movement along the Line of Control, Karna Yahal, Dhar, and other sectors for the last few days. They have been firing at the civilian population along the Line of Control for the past four days. Last night when the Indian troops tried to plant land mines, besides digging trenches, along the Line of Control, the Pakistani forces first warned them and then fired, forcing them to flee. Shortly after that, the Indian forces fired rockets from their positions toward the Azad Kashmir areas, but there is no report of any loss of life or property.

India Blaming Pakistan for 'Domestic Problems'

BK1006154693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today regretted the unjustified and incorrect allegations leveled by Sharad Pawar, the chief minister of India's Maharashtra State, against a Pakistani agency in connection with the murders of two Indian politicians in Bombay. The spokesman said that similar baseless accusations have been made on several occasions in the past as well, but the Indians should realize the futility of their efforts to blame Pakistan for their domestic problems. He said Pakistan, which has itself been a victim of terrorist activities on several occasions in the past, has always condemned terrorism in all its forms and will continue to do so in future as well.

Iranian Envoy, President Discuss Ties

BK1006152593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Iran, Dr. Ala'ddin Borujerdi, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today and discussed with him regional situation, bilateral relations, and the problems facing the Muslim world. Special attention was focused on the situation in Afghanistan, Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Persian Gulf. There was complete identity of perceptions of the situation and full agreement on the need to further strengthen Islamic unity and solidarity to effectively deal with these problems. Both sides emphasized the need to further accelerate the pace of implementation of all bilateral agreements as well as those reached within the framework of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. The forthcoming ECO summit at Istanbul also came up for discussion and hope was expressed that it will play a vital role in the evolution of collective strategy to deal with the various problems facing the member-countries.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister also called on the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo. They exchanged views on wide range of issues, including bilateral cooperation in economic field. Mr. Ala'ddin Borujerdi apprised Mr. Kanjoo of the Iranian foreign minister Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati's recent visit to Gulf countries, which was very useful.

Sharif on Working Relationship With Opposition

BK1006144593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The committee constituted for reconciliation with the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] met in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The committee comprises retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, Mr. Ajmal Khan Khattak, and Mr. Hashim Bizenjo. Syed Ghaus Ali Shah who had been assigned the task of setting date and venue for the parleys with the PDA secretary general, Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Qasuri, submitted his report.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said the government has offered reconciliation to the opposition in the greater national interest. He said working relationship between the government and the opposition would be helpful in combating the scourge of poverty and bringing prosperity in the country. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said every possible effort will be made to accommodate the genuine grievances of the opposition within the framework of the Constitution and the law of the land. He said we have

offered reconciliation with all sincerity and now it is the duty of the opposition to reciprocate with the same spirit. He said the people would reject all those involved in the negative politics.

Sharif Assails Eighth Amendment

BK1006115193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad, June 9—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said he has always endeauvoured to have harmonious relationship with the President of Pakistan in accordance with the Constitution and [words indistinct] the President has not reciprocated his sincere efforts.

The Prime Minister was talking to the editors of the national dailies, news agencies and periodicals at a dinner-cum-meeting at the Prime Minister House Wednesday evening.

He said even after the restoration of the National Assembly and his government by the Supreme Court the President continued hostile actions against the democratic system in this regard. He referred to the dissolution of the Punjab and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] assemblies and directives to Sindh Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Shah not to cooperate with the Prime Minister.

He recalled that he had assured the Supreme Court through his lawyers during the hearing of the petition against the dissolution of the National Assembly that he will in all earnest cooperate and establish a working relationship under the Constituion with the [words indistinct] the President continued to be hostile to his government.

The Prime Minister said the nation had unaminously condemned the dissolution of the National Assembly and stood solidly behind him. Similarly he said the nation [words indistinct] of the dissolution of the National Assembly over-whelmingly.

Nawaz Sharif paid rich tributes to the people and the national Press for their [words indistinct] against the unconstituional action of the President. He also thanked the leaders of the brotherly Muslim countries and other states who showed concern over the dissolution of the National Assembly and expressed support to him.

The Prime Minister recounting his efforts for reconciliation with the President before the dissolution of the National Assembly said he tried his best to settle the differences with the President amicably in all sincerity knowing that the President was bent upon dissolving the Assembly. After meeting the President, he thought that things had settled down but while he was on visits to Germany and Bangladesh some of his cabinet ministers were instigated to resign and other undemocratic developments were encouraged by the President.

On return he was left with no choice but to take the nation into confidence and put the case before the nation through radio and television network on April 17.

The Prime Minister said the Supreme Court through ten to one verdict has vindicated his stand [words indistinct] the nation but it is obvious that the President had not reconciled.

He said he failed to understand as to why certain forces in the country wanted to destroy the democratic system in the motherland.

He said he could have easily established normal working relationships with all the provincial governments but at the instigation of the President and dissolution of the two provincial assemblies this process could not take off. There was no justification for the dissolution of two provincial assemblies. He said the democratic process should not be sabotaged. He asked the nation as well as the national Press to ponder over this situaiton and find the solution.

He said he has offered for negotiations to the opposition in all sincerity in the best national interest and for the survival of the democracy. He said the political leaders have been exploited by [words indistinct] the past. The time has come that the politicians should not allow themselves to be used by these forces.

He said the Eighth Amendment was the main weapon in the hands of the undemocratic forces and it must go. Asked if he would go for the impeachment of the President, he said there was some discussion on this matter in the Cabinet and the parliamentary party but the first priority is the exclusion of the Eighth Amendment from the Constitution which is the root cause of instability and this should be rooted out.

The Prime Minister disclosed that on Eid day he extended Eid felicitations to the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah on telephone and told him [words indistinct] for further distribution of land to Haris. The Chief Minister welcomed his gesture but within two hours Mr Shah called Information Minister Abdus Sattar Laleka asking him to convey to the Prime Minister not to come to Larkana on the pretext that distribution of land required the permission of the Provincial Assembly. He said it is obvious as to who instigated the Sindh Chief Minister not to cooperate with him. He had been distributing the land before also among the Haris and no such objection was raised by the same Chief Minister at that time.

The Prime Minister said the worse kind of horse-trading was done in the Punjab Assembly. But when the members wanted to move a no- confidence motion the Assembly was dissolved.

He said the President in his charge-sheet against him made most baseless allegations including over the question of the [words indistinct] Army Staff and the death of Gen Asit Nawaz and the transport scheme launched by him.

Reacting to various questions and suggestions from the editors the Prime Minister said he was very keen to end the confrontation with the President but there must be change of heart on the side of the other party. He said retired General, Gul Hassan said that there should be reconciliation between the President and the Prime Minister. But he had not met him personally.

He agreed that the FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas people should have direct adult franchise.